SILVER SURFER
25¢ IND.
4 FEB
SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
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THE SILVER SURFER
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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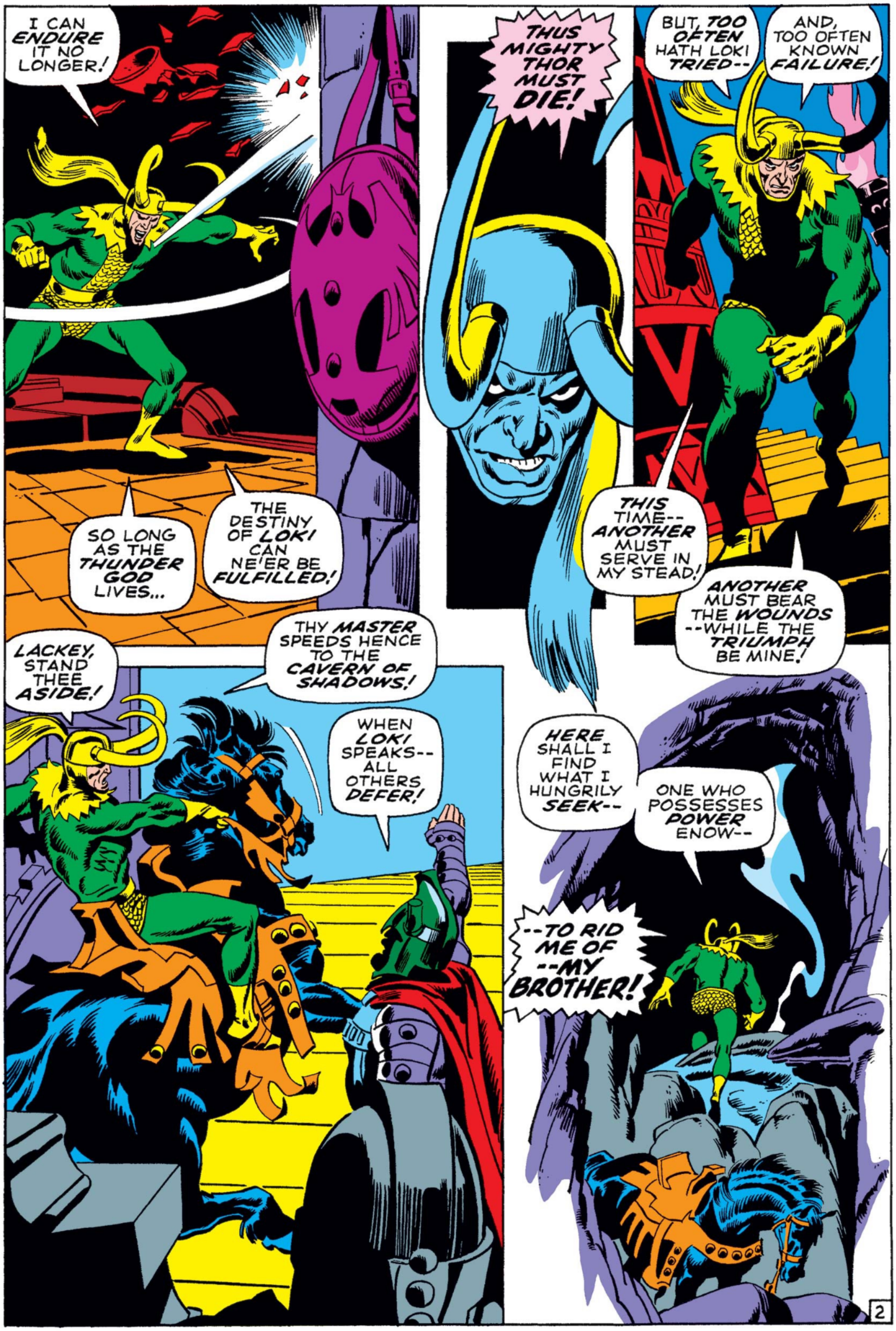
I CAN ENDURE IT NO LONGER!
SO LONG AS THE THUNDER GOD LIVES...
THE DESTINY OF LOKI CAN NE'ER BE FULFILLED!
LACKEY, STAND THEE ASIDE!
THY MASTER SPEEDS HENCE TO THE CAVERN OF SHADOWS!
WHEN LOKI SPEAKS-- ALL OTHERS DEFER!
THUS MIGHTY THOR MUST DIE!
BUT, TOO OFTEN HATH LOKI TRIED--
AND, TOO OFTEN KNOWN FAILURE!
THIS TIME-- ANOTHER MUST SERVE IN MY STEAD!
ANOTHER MUST BEAR THE WOUNDS --WHILE THE TRIUMPH BE MINE!
HERE SHALL I FIND WHAT I HUNGRILY SEEK--
ONE WHO POSSESSES POWER ENOW--
--TO RID ME OF --MY BROTHER!
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NOW, THUS UNFETTERED BY SPACE OR TIME...

I SHALL ROAM THE ENDLESS COSMOS--

--UNTIL MY QUEST BE DONE!

NOW LET THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL APPEAR BEFORE ME--

I BEHOLD THE HULK!

BUT, THOUGH IN BRUTE STRENGTH HE SEEMS BOUND-LESS--

HE IS LACKING IN SKILL!

HE WILL NOT DO!

WHAT OF HIM WHO IS CALLED-- THE THING?
GROTESQUE THOUGH HE BE--STILL IS HE HUMAN!
AND SURELY NO MORTAL MAY OPPOSE MIGHTY THOR!
HERCULES!! SON OF ZEUS!
WOULD THAT THY MIGHT WERE MINE TO ENLIST!
BUT, NOT EVEN LOKI WOULD BRAVE THE WRATH OF OLYMPUS ASSEMBLED!
I MUST SEARCH ELSE-WHERE!
BUT WAIT! WHAT DOTH LOKI NOW BEHOLD??
WHAT GLISTENING OBJECT HURTLES THRU YON SKY?
'TIS A MAN FORM!!
BUT NE'ER BEFORE HAVE LOKI'S EYES BEHELD HIS LIKE!
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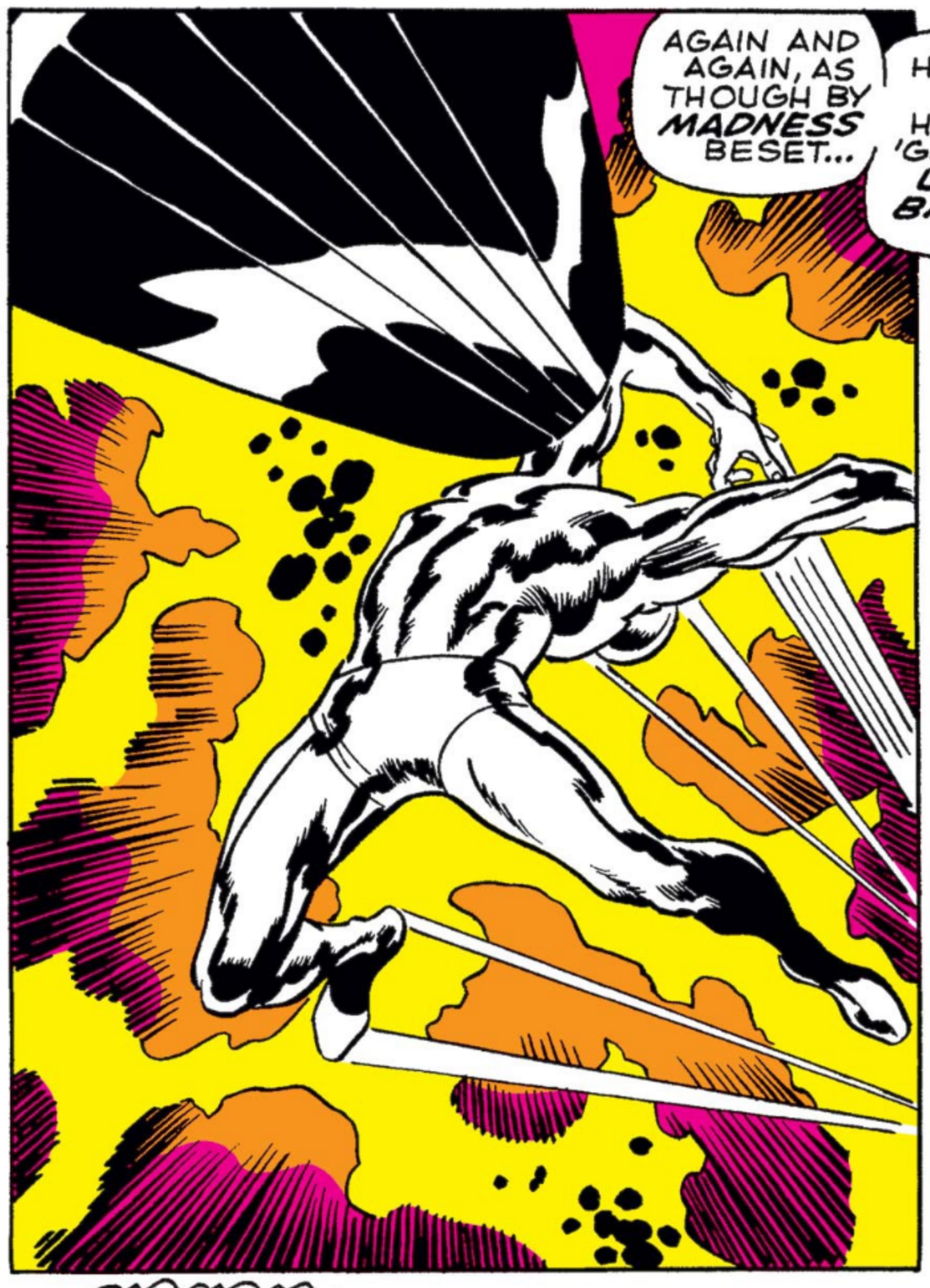
AGAIN AND AGAIN, AS THOUGH BY MADNESS BESET...

HE DOTH HURL HIMSELF 'GAINST AN UNSEEN BARRIER!
THOUGH LESS THAN GODLING, HIS POWER SURPASSETH THAT OF A MORTAL!
HATH LOKI THUS FOUND HIM WHO SHALL SLAY THE THUNDER GOD?
I MUST KNOW MORE!
I MUST LAY BARE HIS PAST --WITH A SPELL TEMPOREAL!
FIRST, FROM WHENCE HATH HE OBTAINED-- HIS POWERS??

AHHH! IT ALL GROWS CLEAR!
TO SAVE HIS WORLD, HE OFFERED HIMSELF AS HERALD TO THE PLANET-RAVISHING GALACTUS!
HOW NOBLE! HOW VALIANT! HOW LOATH-SOMELY WITLESS!

'TWAS GALACTUS WHO TRANSFORMED NORRIN RADD INTO--THE SILVER SURFER!
AND, THOUGH HE GAINED RARE POWER COSMIC--

THAT WHICH HE CHERISHED MOST OF ALL-- WAS TO BE FORE'ER DENIED HIM!!

BUT, STAY! HE HATH DARED REBEL AGAINST HIS MASTER!
THEN THAT IS WHY GALACTUS HATH IMPRISONED HIM UPON THE PLANET EARTH!
I HAVE SEEN ENOW!
I NEED BUT PROMISE TO RETURN HIM TO HIS LOVED ONE, AND HE WILL DO MY BIDDING!
BUT--WHAT IS THIS I SEE--??
ANOTHER DID HIM TEMPT IN SELF-SAME MANNER--
BUT, WHERE MEPHISTO FAILED-- THERE SHALL CUNNING LOKI FIND SUCCESS!
LET ME NOW REGAIN MY GODLY FORM!
LOKI DOTH KNOW WHAT NOW MUST NEEDS BE DONE!
ONLY BY GROSS DECEPTION SHALL I WIN THE PRIZE!
ONLY BY CRASS DECEIT SHALL HIM WHO HAD BEEN HERALD BECOME SLY LOKI'S TOOL!
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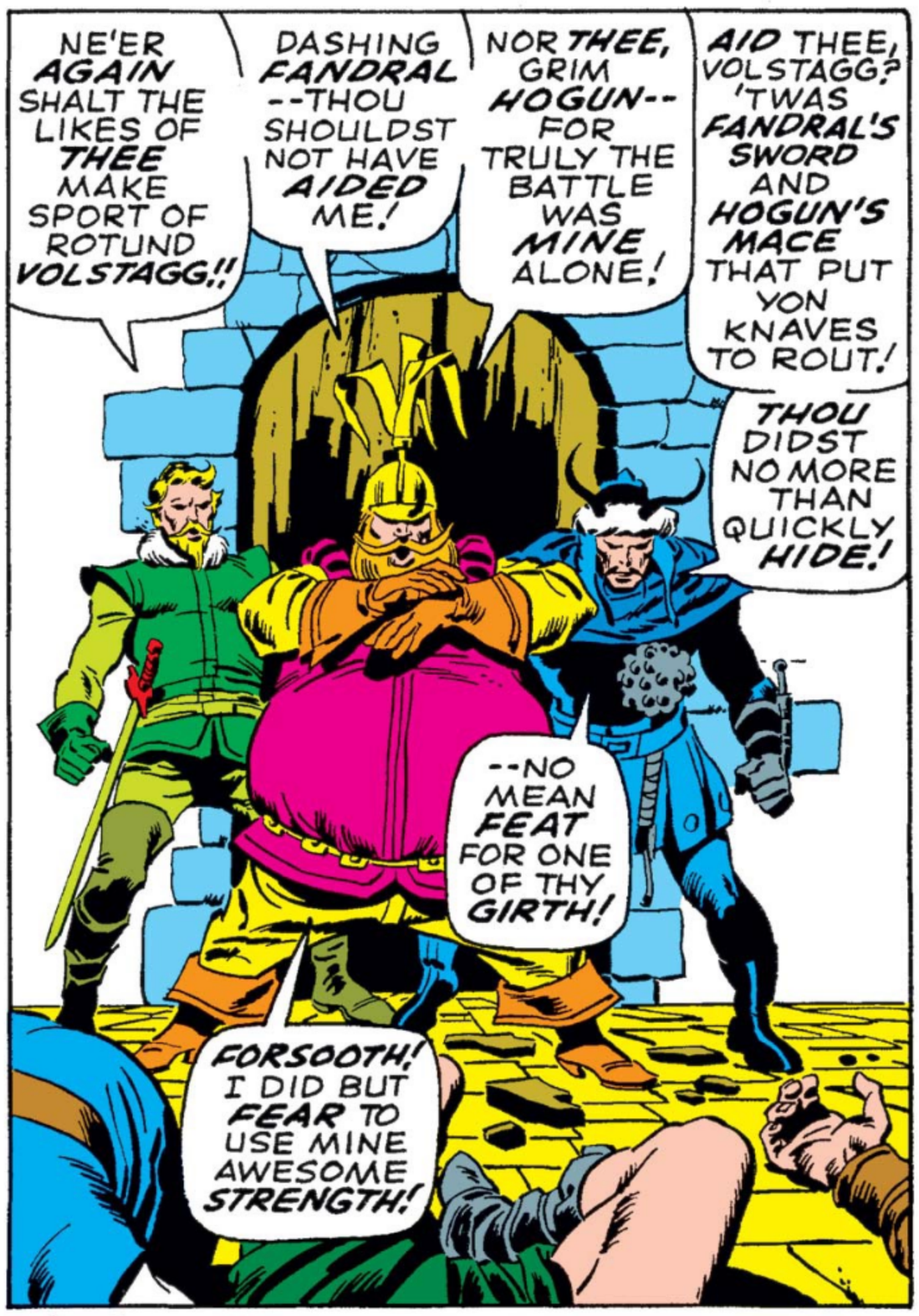
BUT, EVEN AS THE GOD OF EVIL DRAWS EVER NEARER--
BEGONE, THOU CHURLISH LOUTS!
KRASH!


NE'ER AGAIN SHALT THE LIKES OF THEE MAKE SPORT OF ROTUND VOLSTAGG!!
DASHING FANDRAL --THOU SHOULDST NOT HAVE AIDED ME!
NOR THEE, GRIM HOGUN-- FOR TRULY THE BATTLE WAS MINE ALONE!
AID THEE, VOLSTAGG? 'TWAS FANDRAL'S SWORD AND HOGUN'S MACE THAT PUT YON KNAVES TO ROUT!
THOU DIDST NO MORE THAN QUICKLY HIDE!
--NO MEAN FEAT FOR ONE OF THY GIRTH!
FORSOOTH! I DID BUT FEAR TO USE MINE AWESOME STRENGTH!

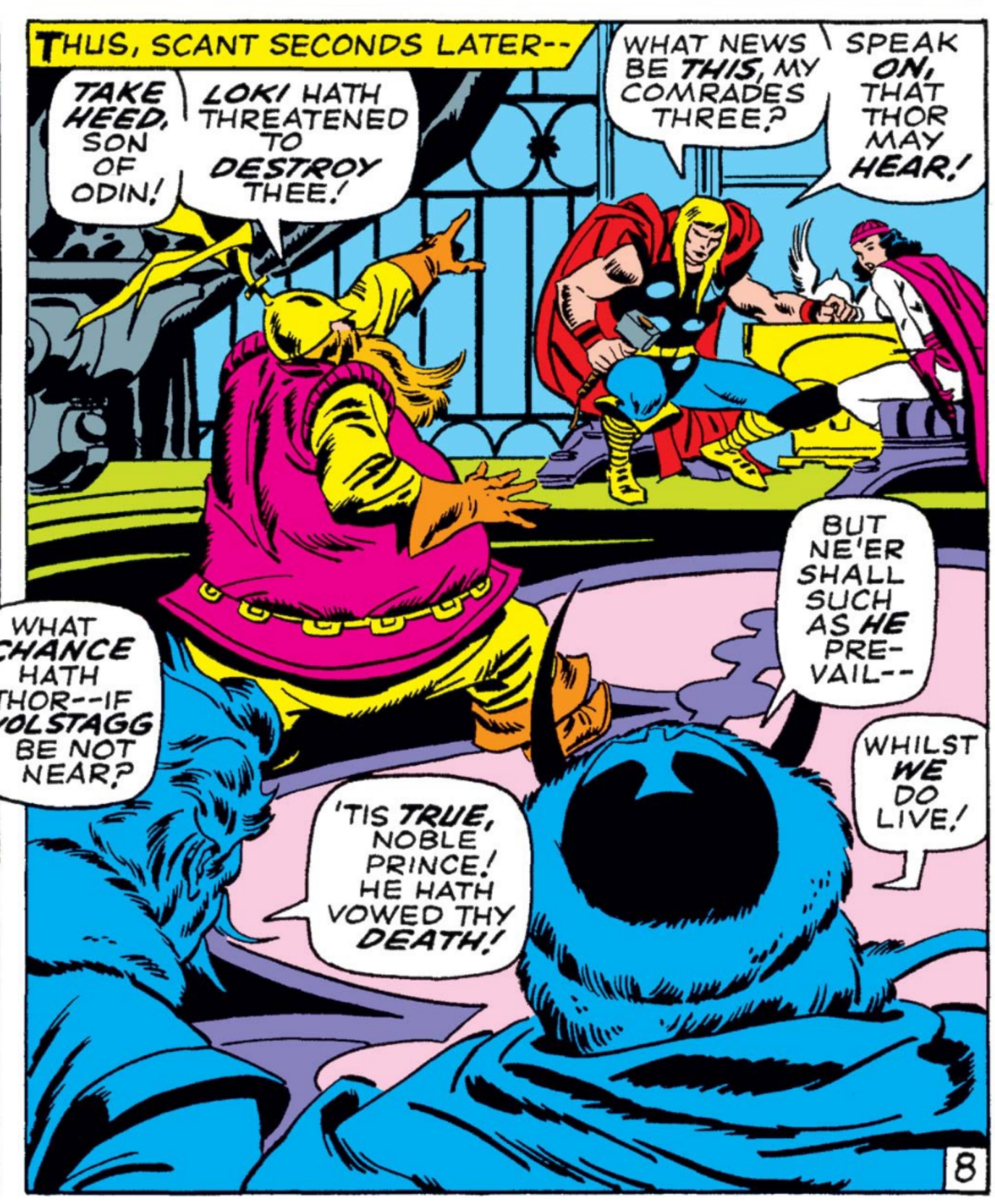
LET US AWAY! HIS BRAGGING DOTH ASSAIL MINE EARS!
WHILST THEY DEPART, VALIANT VOLSTAGG SHALT GUARD YON SLEEPING OAFS!
BLUBBEROUS ONE--WE SLEEP NO MORE!

THEY ARE AWAKE!
HOGUN!! FANDRAL!! WAIT FOR LION-HEARTED VOLSTAGG!
I TRUST NOT MYSELF WITH A MERE THREE FOES!
IF I GROW CARE-LESS--
THINK OF THE HARM MY GREAT PROWESS MIGHT INFLICT!

BUT, BEFORE THE PANTING VOLSTAGG CAN WADDLE TO HIS GOAL--
ODDS BLOOD! WHO GALLOPS PAST AT SUCH A PACE??
'TIS LOKI-- STEEPED IN THE SCENT OF NEW-PLANNED EVIL!
WARRIORS, WATCH THY WORDS!
THE GOD OF THUNDER IS NOT NOW HERE TO HELP THEE!

AND SOON-- HE SHALL BE GONE-- FORE'ER!
AT LAST HATH LOKI FOUND THE WAY-- TO VANQUISH MIGHTY THOR!

--AND NAUGHT THAT LIVES SHALL SAVE HIM!
FANDRAL! WHY DIDST THOU NOT HEED ME?
QUIET, QUAKING ONE!
THERE IS VILLAINY AFOOT!
THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST BE WARNED!
LET US THEN AWAY!


THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER--
TAKE HEED, SON OF ODIN!
LOKI HATH THREATENED TO DESTROY THEE!
WHAT NEWS BE THIS, MY COMRADES THREE?
SPEAK ON, THAT THOR MAY HEAR!
WHAT CHANCE HATH THOR--IF VOLSTAGG BE NOT NEAR?
'TIS TRUE, NOBLE PRINCE! HE HATH VOWED THY DEATH!
BUT NE'ER SHALL SUCH AS HE PRE-VAIL--
WHILST WE DO LIVE!

BEWARE, MY LORD! LOKI'S WAY IS STEALTH --AND GUILE!
HE WOULD NOT WARN THEE--LEST HE FEEL HE CANNOT FAIL!
TO ARMS, MY PRINCE! WE MUST PREPARE!
THE STUNNING SIF SPEAKS TRUE!
SHALL THOR NOW TREMBLE AT LOKI'S THREAT??
I SAY THEE NAY!
AND SO SPEAKS FEARLESS VOLSTAGG!
THE TIME FOR SPEECH IS PAST!
IF WAR BE LOKI'S AIM--THEN WAR SHALL LOKI HAVE!
HOW PATHETICALLY PREDICTABLE IS MY DOOMED STEP-BROTHER!
HE REACTS AS LOKI PLANNED!
BUT, MASTER--A FOE FORE-WARNED IS A FOE FORE-ARMED!
BE SILENT, FOOL!
WHAT CANST THOU KNOW OF LOKI'S CUNNING PLAN??
THE SCENE IS SET! NOW LET THE PLAY BEGIN!
BUT FIRST, I GO--
TO FIND THE SILVER SURFER!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN ANOTHER *WORLD*--FURTHER FROM *ASGARD* THAN THE MIND CAN IMAGINE--YET EVER AS *CLOSE* AS LOKI'S TEMPOREAL *SPELL*--

AMONGST THE *MIGHTIEST*--THE MOST SUPPOSEDLY *SAVAGE* OF ALL EARTH'S CREATURES--I SIT IN *PEACE*--I DWELL IN *SAFETY!*

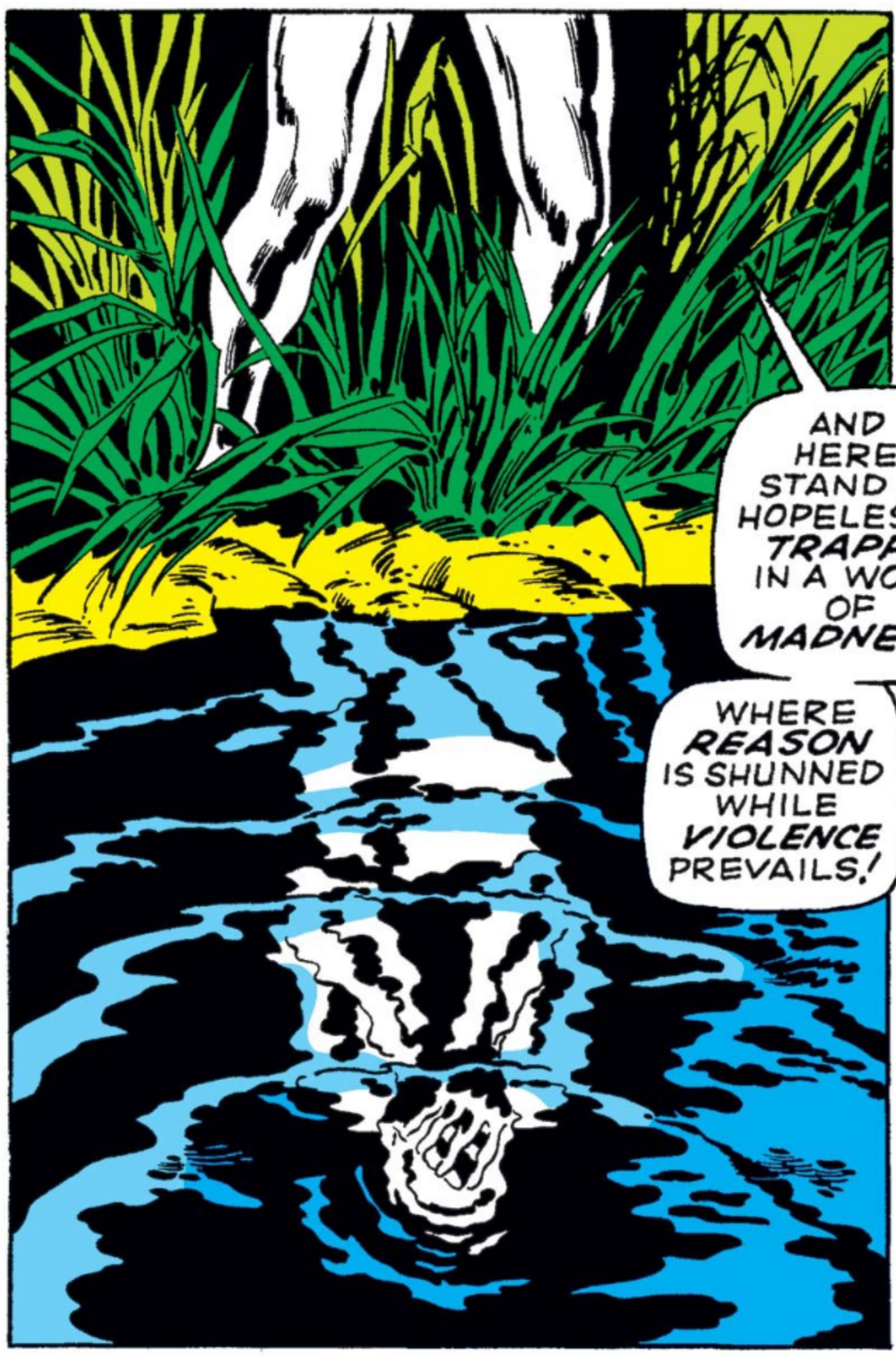
FOR *FOOD* HAS BEEN PLENTIFUL--AND NO LONGER DO THEY *HUNGER!*

UNLIKE THE *HUMANS*--WHO CALL YOU *BEAST*--THERE IS NO *VIOLENCE* IN YOUR HEART!

NO HINT OF *AVARICE*--NO SMOLDERING *HATE!*

YET *MAN*, WHO HAS WON *DOMINION* OVER ALL THIS WORLD--

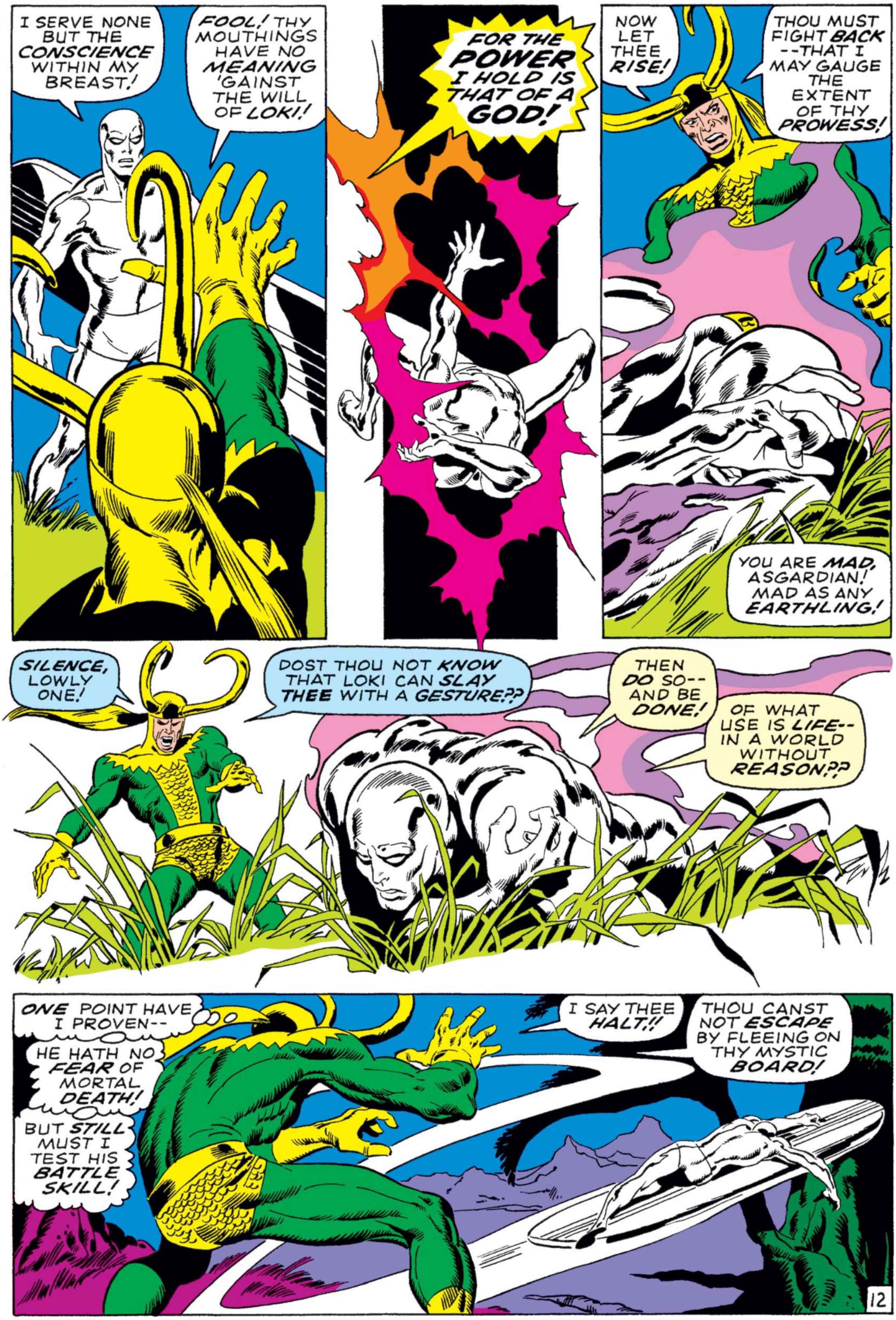
--IS A *STRANGER* TO PEACE--A *PRISONER*, CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF HIS OWN NAMELESS *FEARS!*

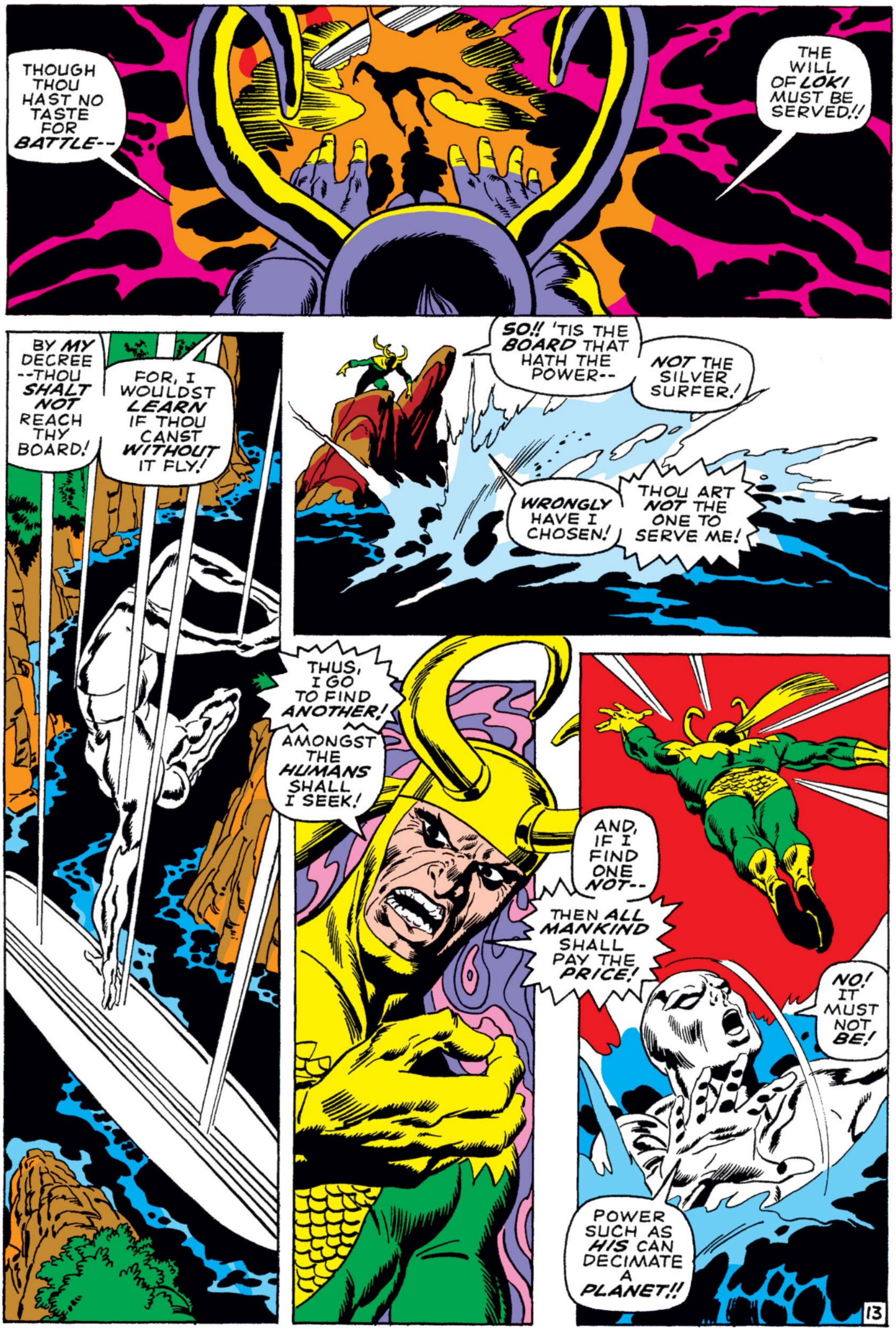

AND HERE STAND I-- HOPELESSLY TRAPPED IN A WORLD OF MADNESS!
WHERE REASON IS SHUNNED WHILE VIOLENCE PREVAILS!

BUT NO LONGER SHALL THE SILVER SURFER BE A PART OF MAN'S INSANITY!
LET HUMANITY DO WHAT IT WILL--
AS FOR ME, I SHALL DWELL AMONGST THE BEASTS!

SILVER SURFER! I HAVE FOUND THEE AT LAST!
WHO CALLS?

LET NOW THY HEAD BE BOWED --THY HEART FILLED WITH AWE!
THOU DOST BEHOLD LOKI, SON OF ODIN, IMMORTAL OF ASGARD!
LOKI-- WHOM FATE HATH DECREED THAT THOU SHALT SERVE!


I SERVE NONE BUT THE CONSCIENCE WITHIN MY BREAST!
FOOL! THY MOUTHINGS HAVE NO MEANING 'GAINST THE WILL OF LOKI!
FOR THE POWER I HOLD IS THAT OF A GOD!
NOW LET THEE RISE!
THOU MUST FIGHT BACK --THAT I MAY GAUGE THE EXTENT OF THY PROWESS!
YOU ARE MAD, ASGARDIAN! MAD AS ANY EARTHLING!
SILENCE, LOWLY ONE!
DOST THOU NOT KNOW THAT LOKI CAN SLAY THEE WITH A GESTURE??
THEN DO SO-- AND BE DONE!
OF WHAT USE IS LIFE-- IN A WORLD WITHOUT REASON??
ONE POINT HAVE I PROVEN--
HE HATH NO FEAR OF MORTAL DEATH!
BUT STILL MUST I TEST HIS BATTLE SKILL!
I SAY THEE HALT!!
THOU CANST NOT ESCAPE BY FLEEING ON THY MYSTIC BOARD!


THOUGH THOU HAST NO TASTE FOR BATTLE--
THE WILL OF LOKI MUST BE SERVED!!
BY MY DECREE --THOU SHALT NOT REACH THY BOARD!
FOR, I WOULDST LEARN IF THOU CANST WITHOUT IT FLY!
SO!! 'TIS THE BOARD THAT HATH THE POWER--
NOT THE SILVER SURFER!
WRONGLY HAVE I CHOSEN!
THOU ART NOT THE ONE TO SERVE ME!
THUS, I GO TO FIND ANOTHER!
AMONGST THE HUMANS SHALL I SEEK!
AND, IF I FIND ONE NOT--
THEN ALL MANKIND SHALL PAY THE PRICE!
NO! IT MUST NOT BE!
POWER SUCH AS HIS CAN DECIMATE A PLANET!!
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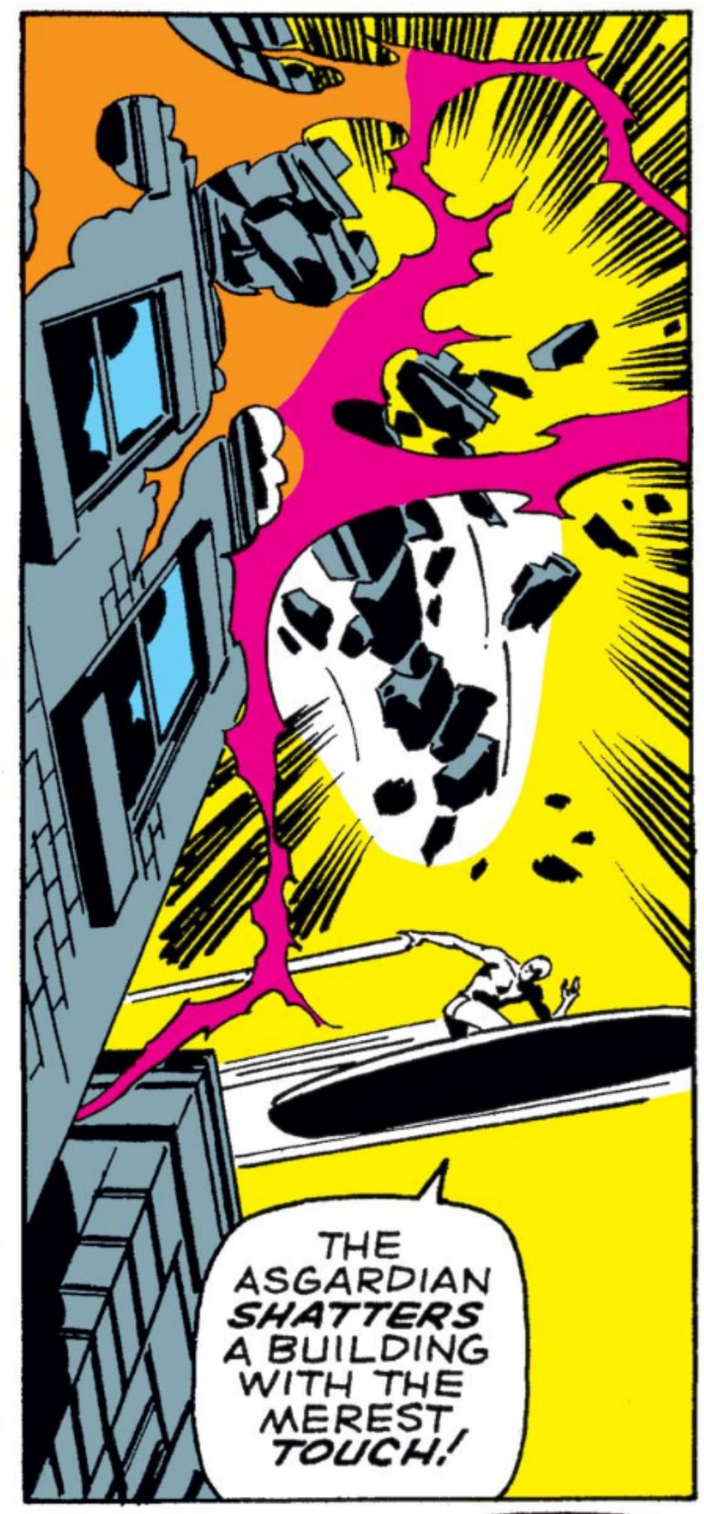
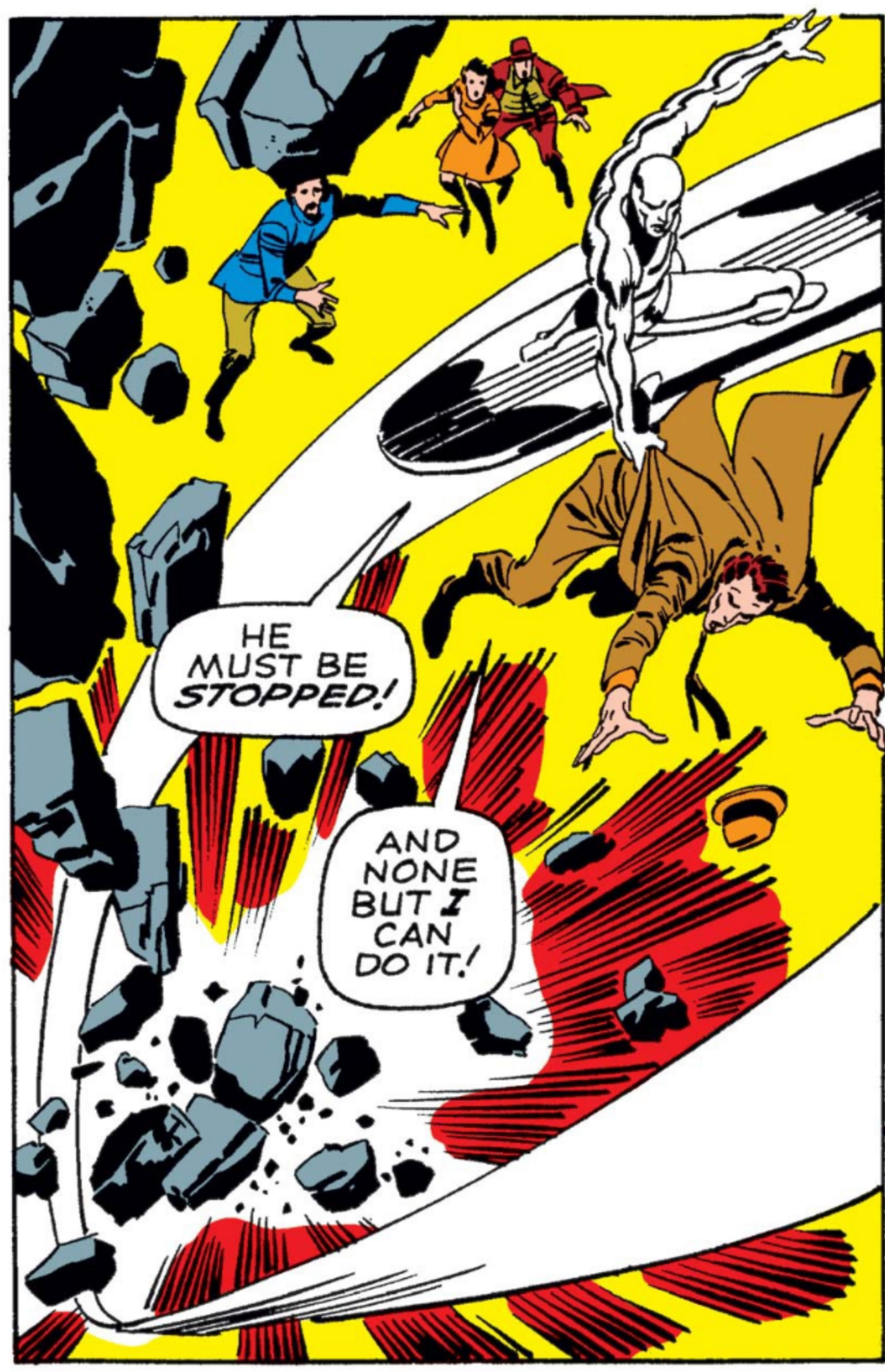
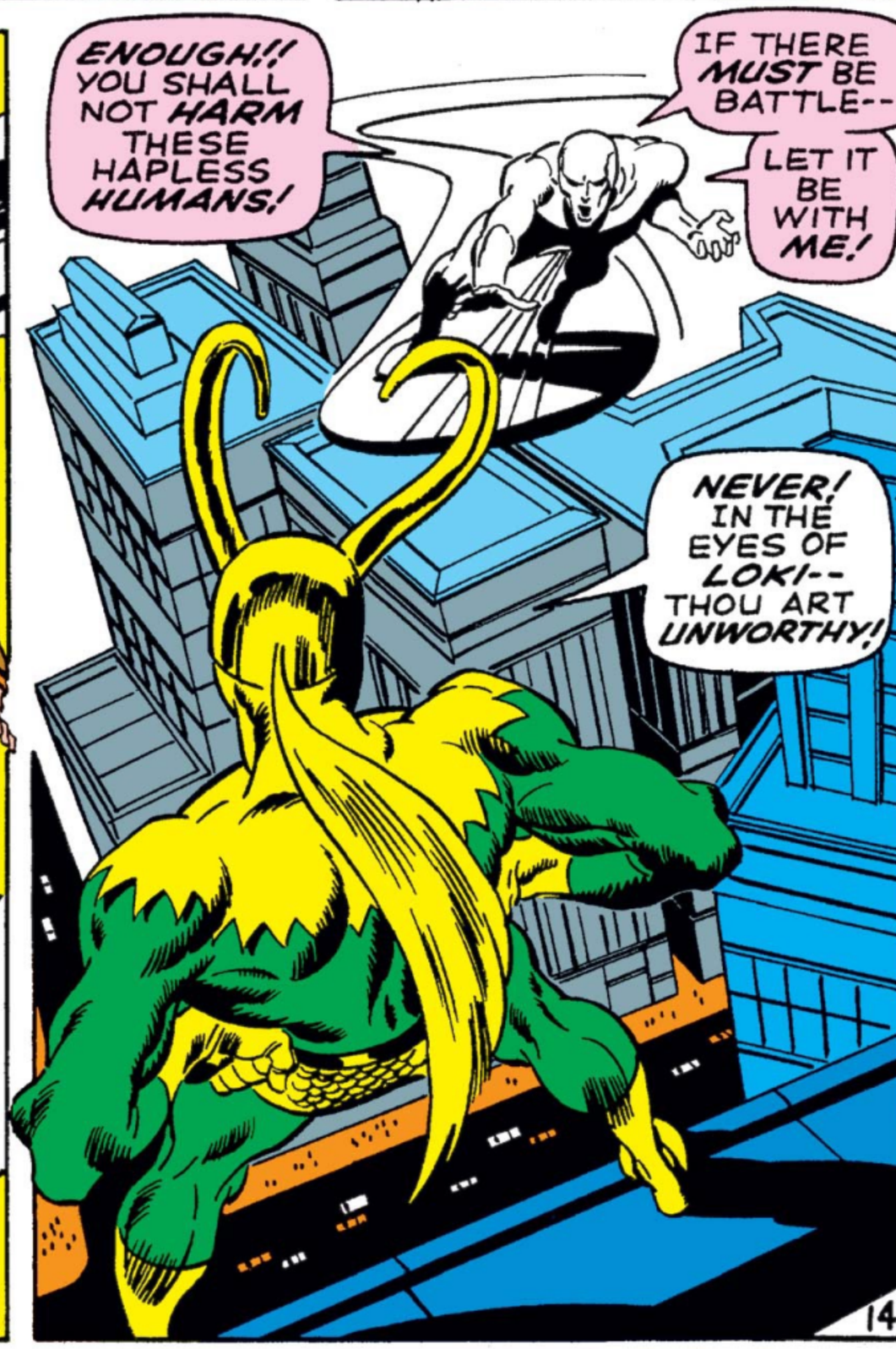
AHH! 'TIS AS I THOUGHT!
THE SURFER FOLLOWS!
AND CUNNING LOKI YET SHALL WIN THE DAY!

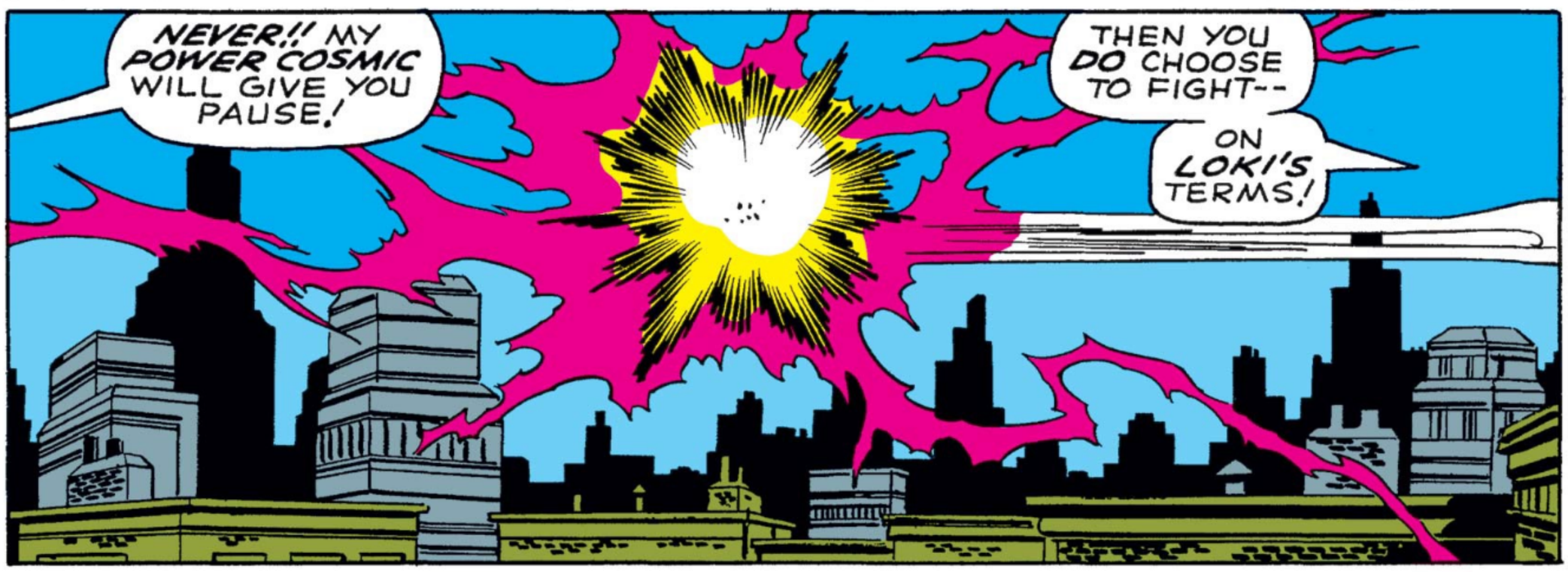
ONE SUCH AS HE WILL NOT DO BATTLE WITHOUT CAUSE!
THUS SHALL LOKI GIVE HIM CAUSE--!

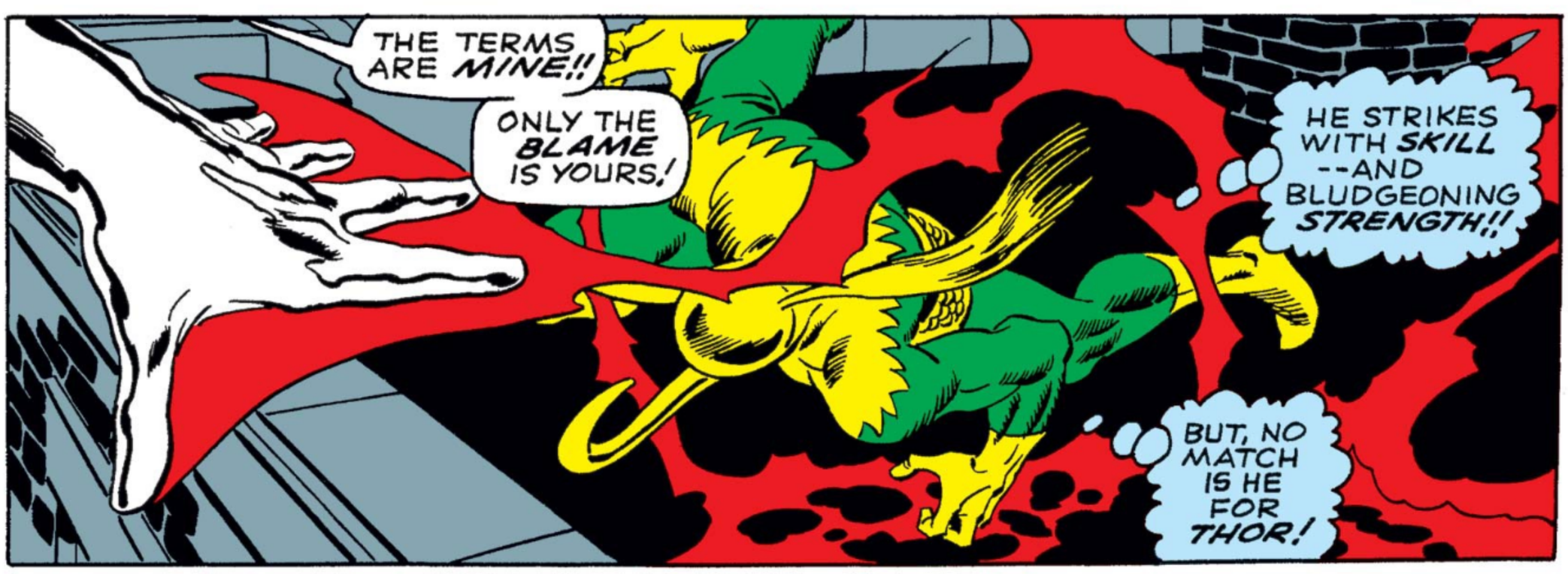

THE ASGARDIAN SHATTERS A BUILDING WITH THE MEREST TOUCH!

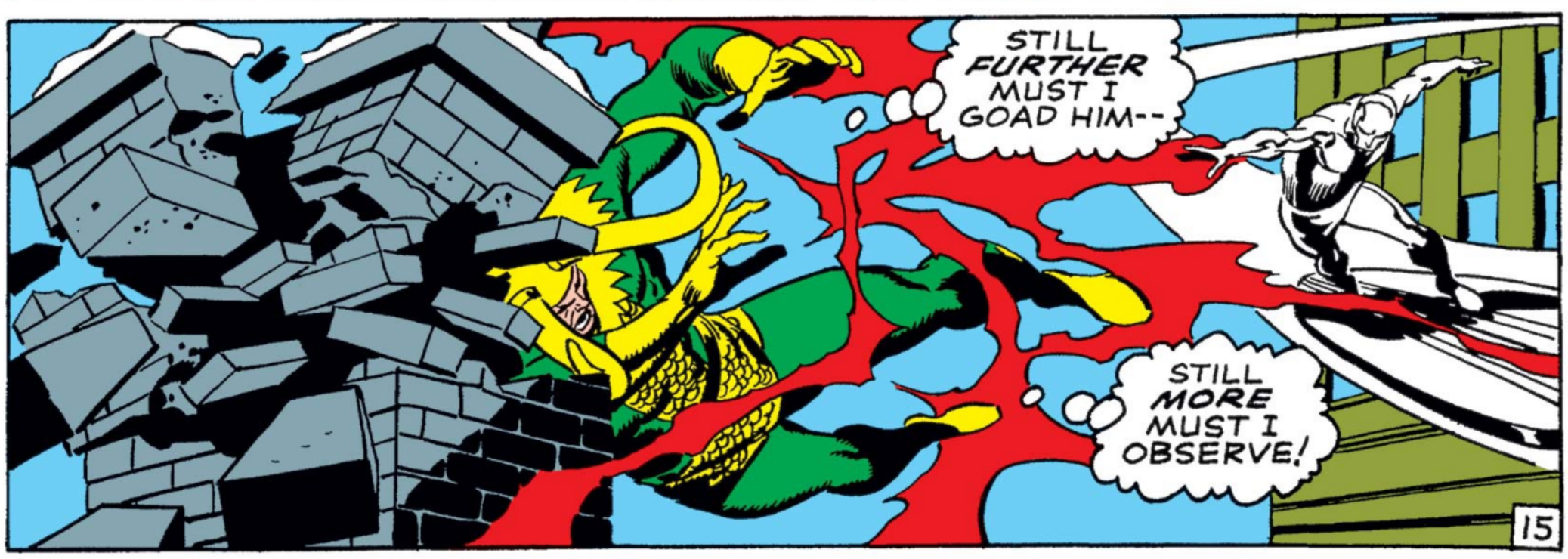

HE MUST BE STOPPED!
AND NONE BUT I CAN DO IT!


ENOUGH!! YOU SHALL NOT HARM THESE HAPLESS HUMANS!
IF THERE MUST BE BATTLE--
LET IT BE WITH ME!
NEVER! IN THE EYES OF LOKI-- THOU ART UNWORTHY!

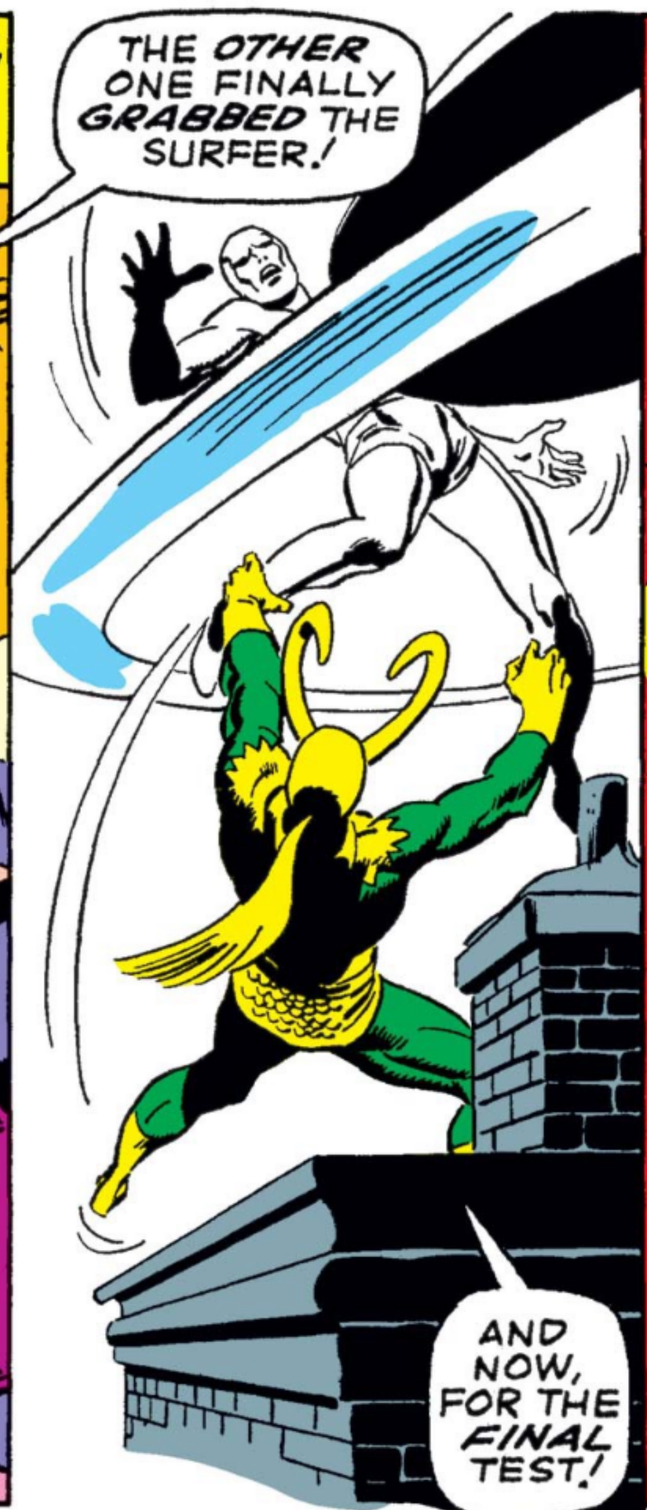
NOW, SPACE WANDERER --LET THEE BEGONE!
WHILST MY WRATH DOTH RAGE-- A CITY MUST PERISH!


NEVER!! MY POWER COSMIC WILL GIVE YOU PAUSE!
THEN YOU DO CHOOSE TO FIGHT--
ON LOKI'S TERMS!


THE TERMS ARE MINE!!
ONLY THE BLAME IS YOURS!
HE STRIKES WITH SKILL --AND BLUDGEONING STRENGTH!!
BUT, NO MATCH IS HE FOR THOR!

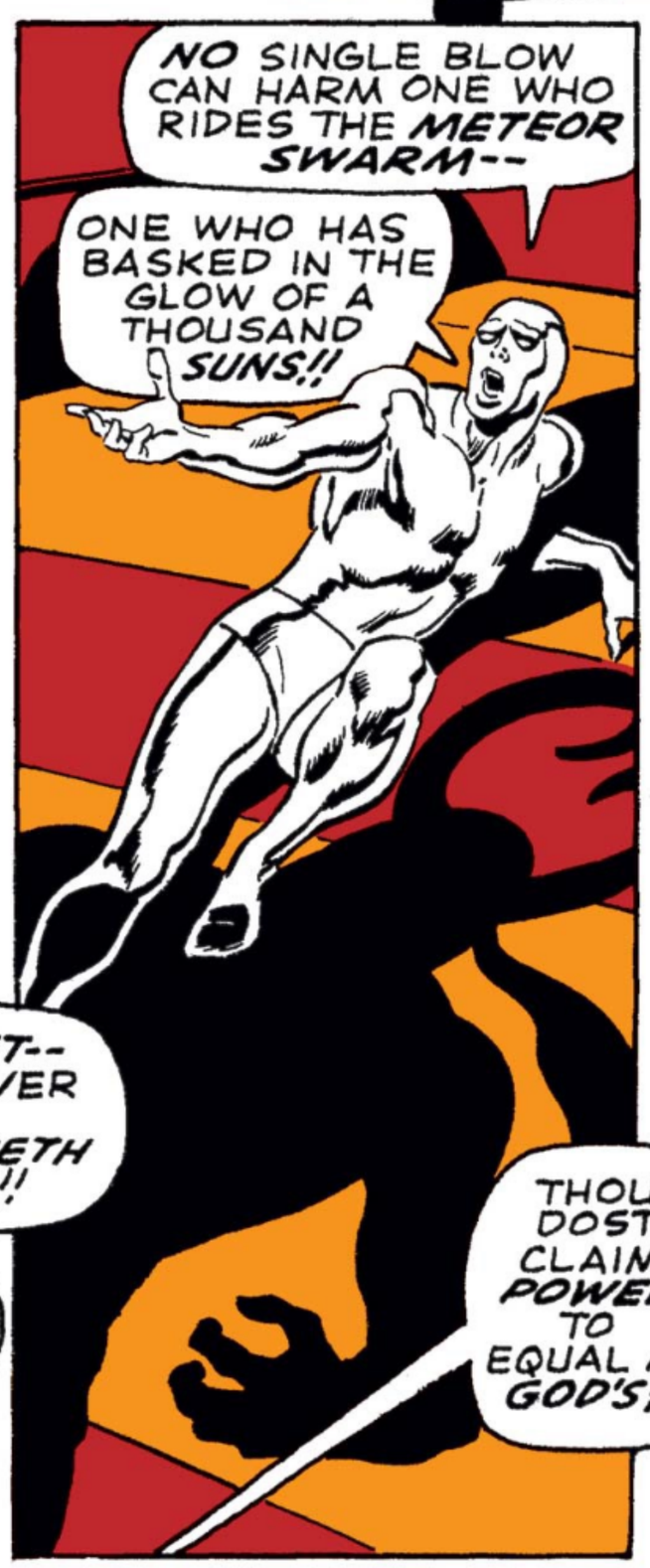

STILL FURTHER MUST I GOAD HIM--
STILL MORE MUST I OBSERVE!

WHILE, ON THE STREETS BELOW, THE STUNNED AND STARTLED MASSES GIVE VENT TO THEIR MOUNTING PANIC--
IT'S THE SURFER AGAIN!
HE--AND SOME OTHER NUT--ARE TRYIN' TO WRECK THE CITY!
CALL THE MILITIA!
WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY STOP THEM?
SEND FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD!


THE OTHER ONE FINALLY GRABBED THE SURFER!
AND NOW, FOR THE FINAL TEST!

I MUST LEARN IF THOU HAST THE POWER TO WITHSTAND THE AWESOME ATTACK OF A GOD!!

BAH! WITH ONE BLOW I HAVE FELLED THEE!
AND YET--THY SILVER SKIN PROTECTETH THEE!!
IN TRUTH --THOU ART UNHURT!!


NO SINGLE BLOW CAN HARM ONE WHO RIDES THE METEOR SWARM--
ONE WHO HAS BASKED IN THE GLOW OF A THOUSAND SUNS!!
THOU DOST CLAIM POWER TO EQUAL A GOD'S!!

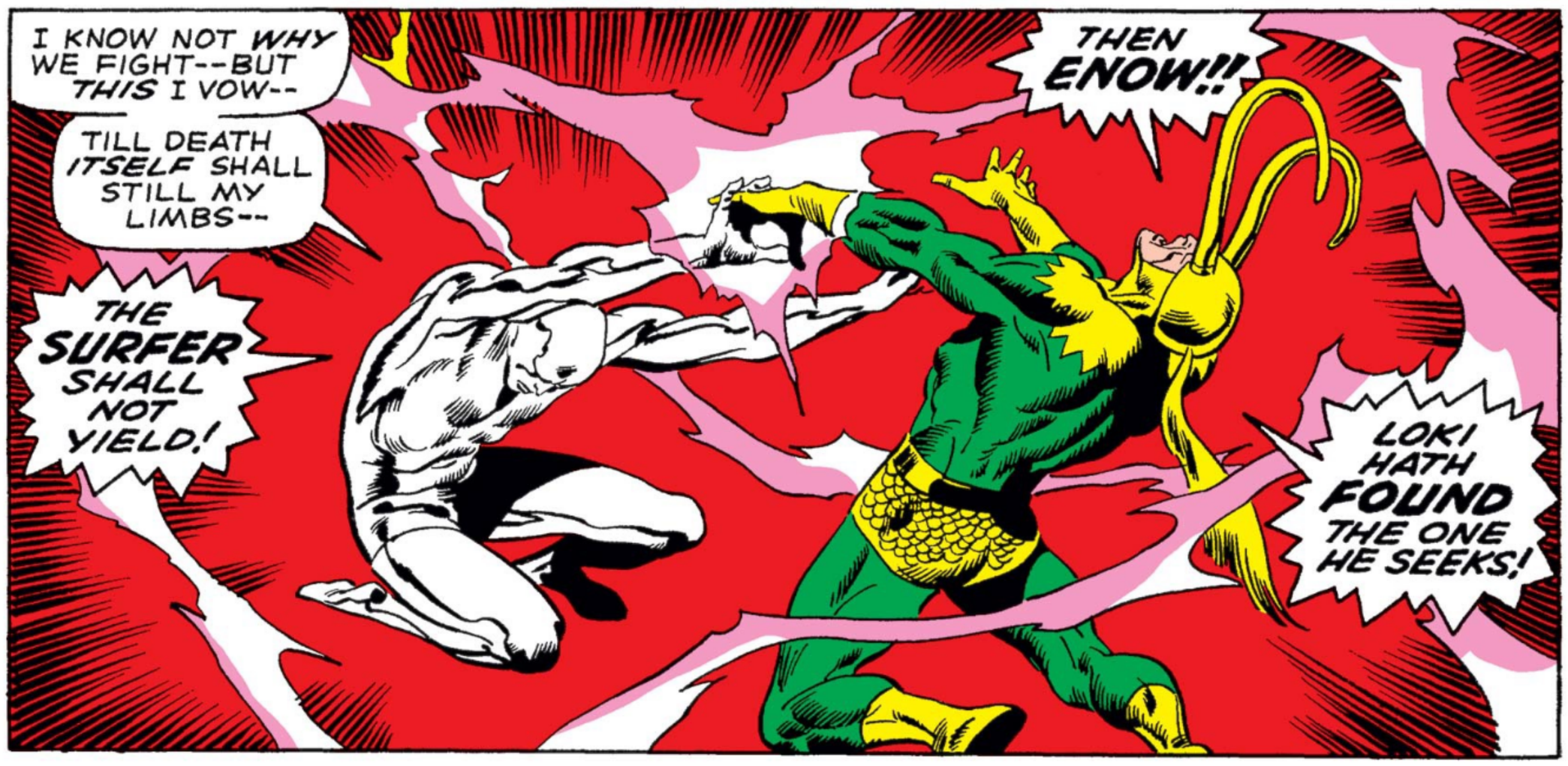
AND NOW--THOU MUST PROVE IT!

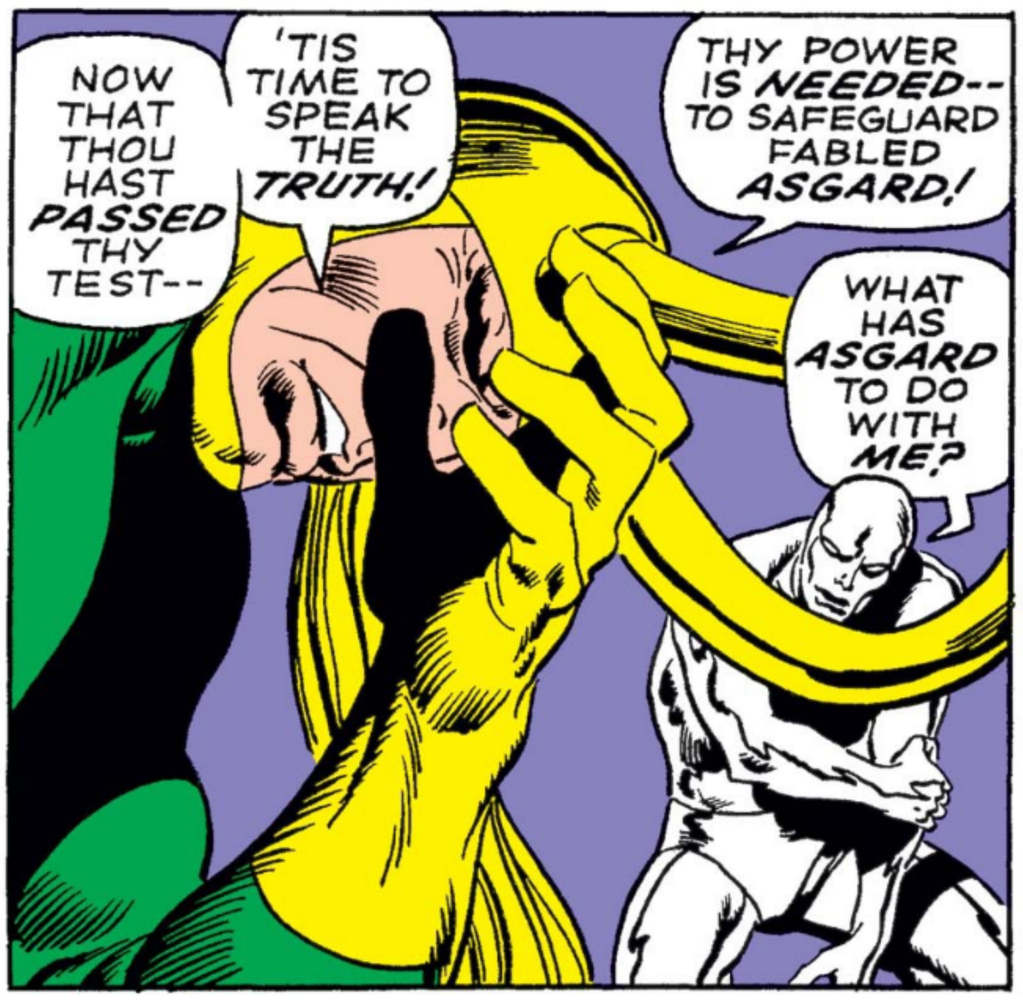
KNOW YOU THAT I BE BROTHER TO THE GOD OF THUNDER!

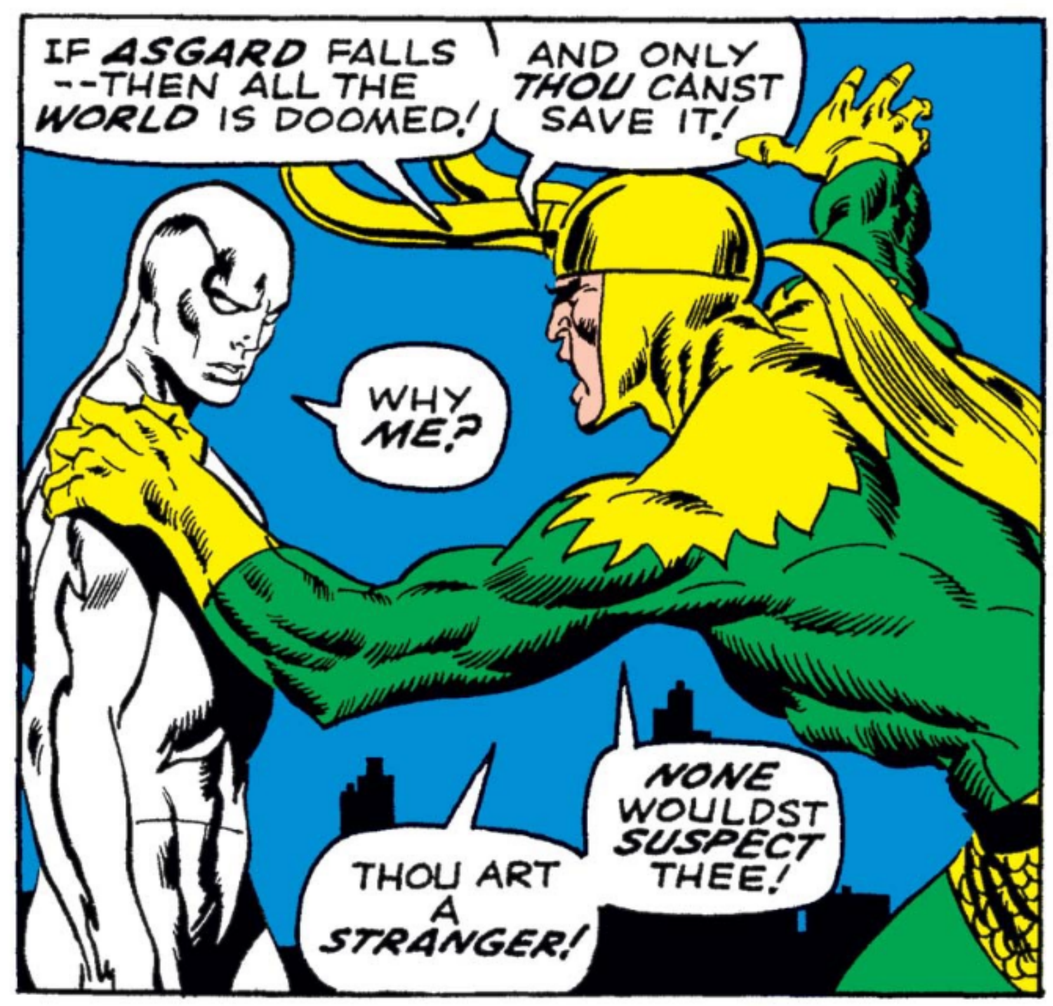
AND, IN THE VEINS OF LOKI, ODIN'S REGAL BLOOD DOTH FLOW!!

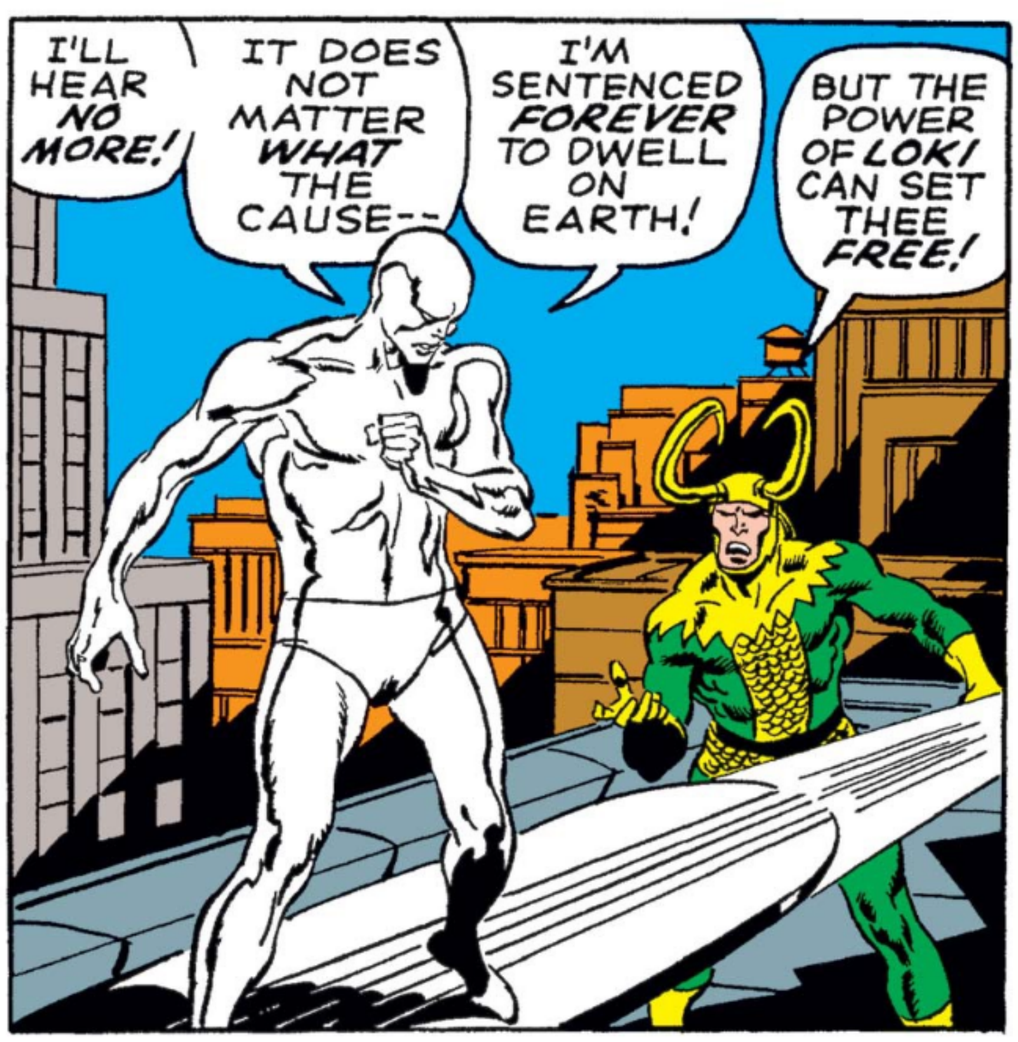
IF YOUR LIMBS CANNOT STOP ME--

NEITHER WILL YOUR EMPTY BOASTS!


I KNOW NOT WHY WE FIGHT--BUT THIS I VOW--
TILL DEATH ITSELF SHALL STILL MY LIMBS--
THE SURFER SHALL NOT YIELD!
THEN ENOW!!
LOKI HATH FOUND THE ONE HE SEEKS!


NOW THAT THOU HAST PASSED THY TEST--
'TIS TIME TO SPEAK THE TRUTH!
THY POWER IS NEEDED--TO SAFEGUARD FABLED ASGARD!
WHAT HAS ASGARD TO DO WITH ME?

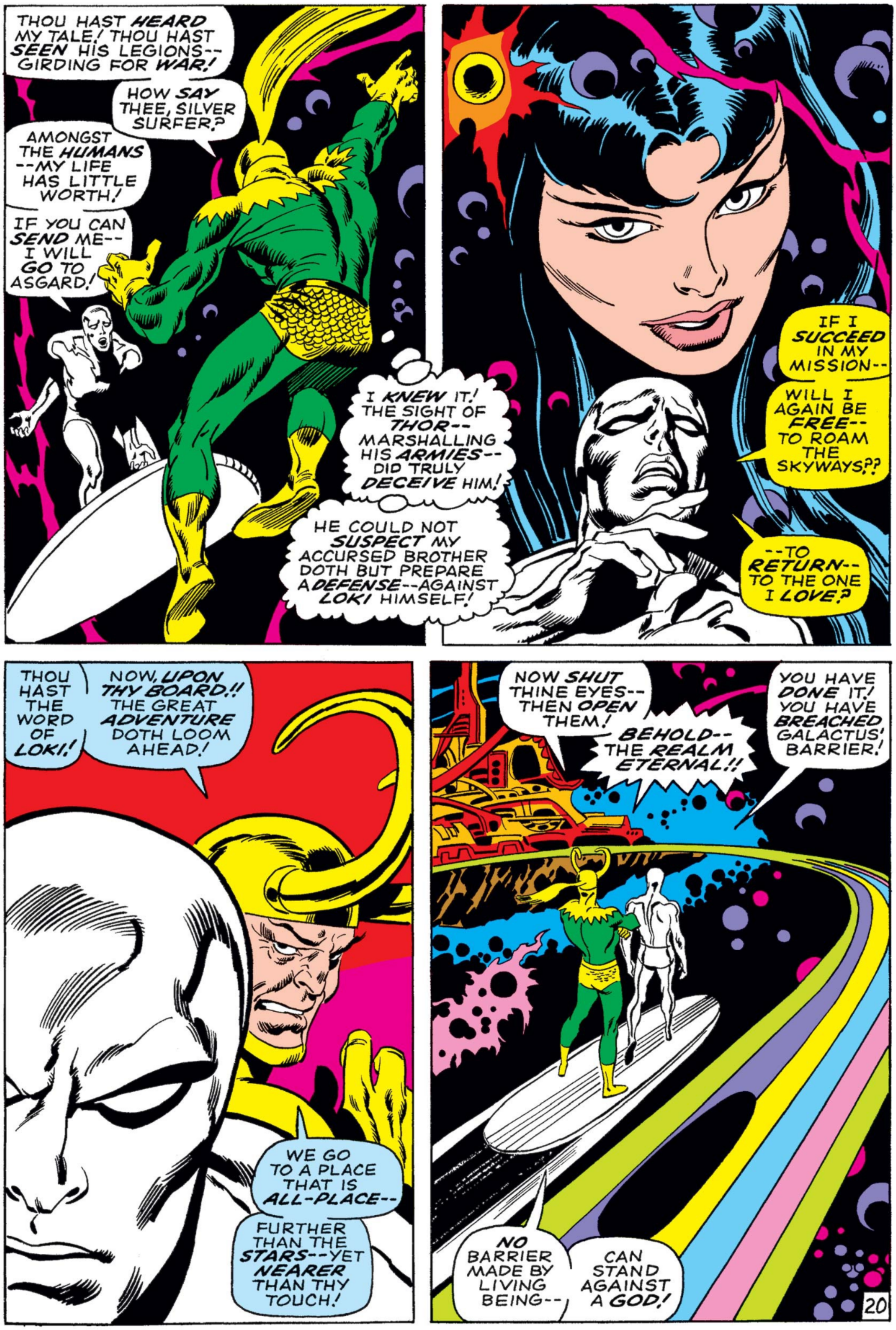

IF ASGARD FALLS --THEN ALL THE WORLD IS DOOMED!
AND ONLY THOU CANST SAVE IT!
WHY ME?
THOU ART A STRANGER!
NONE WOULDST SUSPECT THEE!

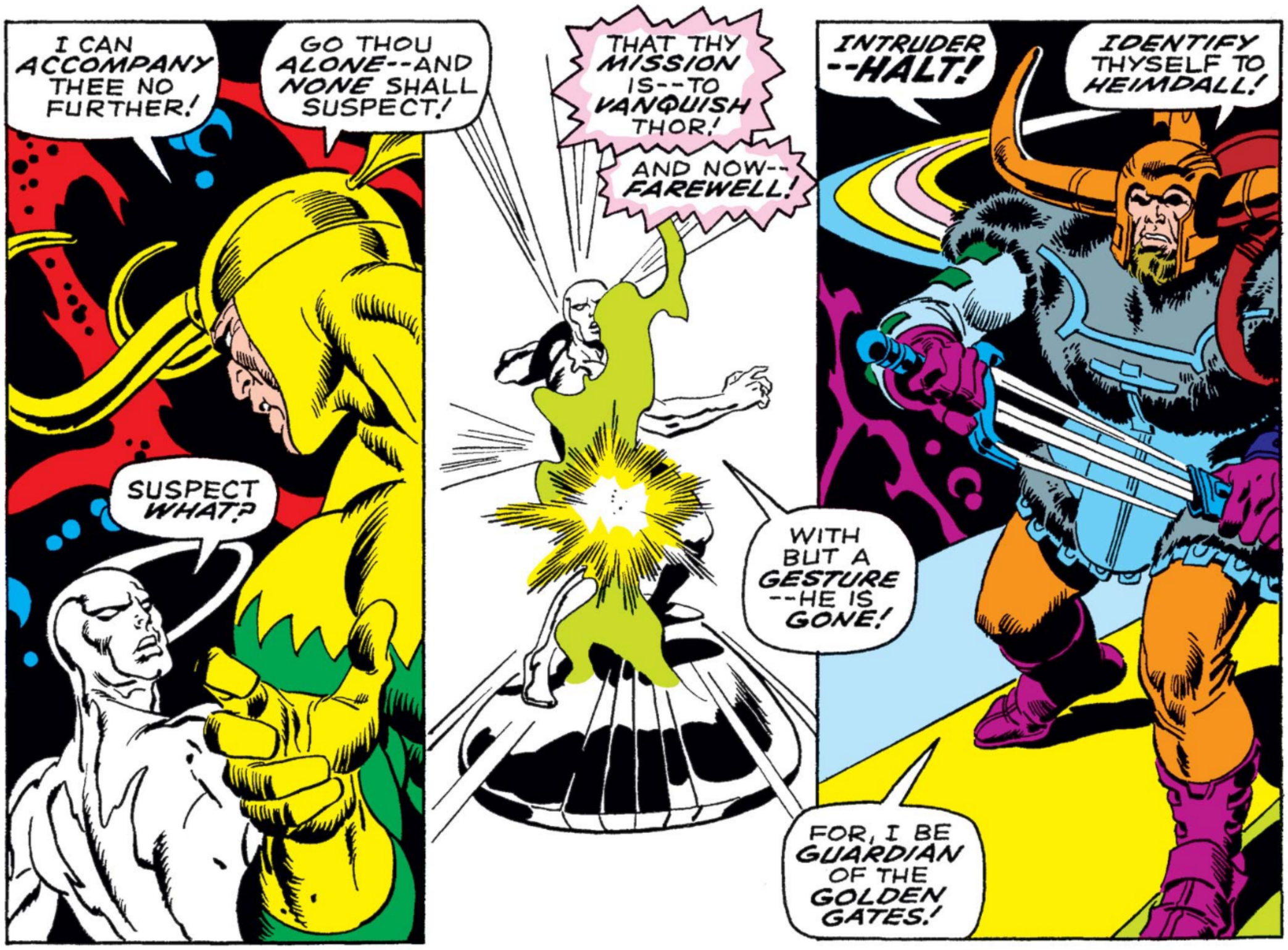

I'LL HEAR NO MORE!
IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE--
I'M SENTENCED FOREVER TO DWELL ON EARTH!
BUT THE POWER OF LOKI CAN SET THEE FREE!

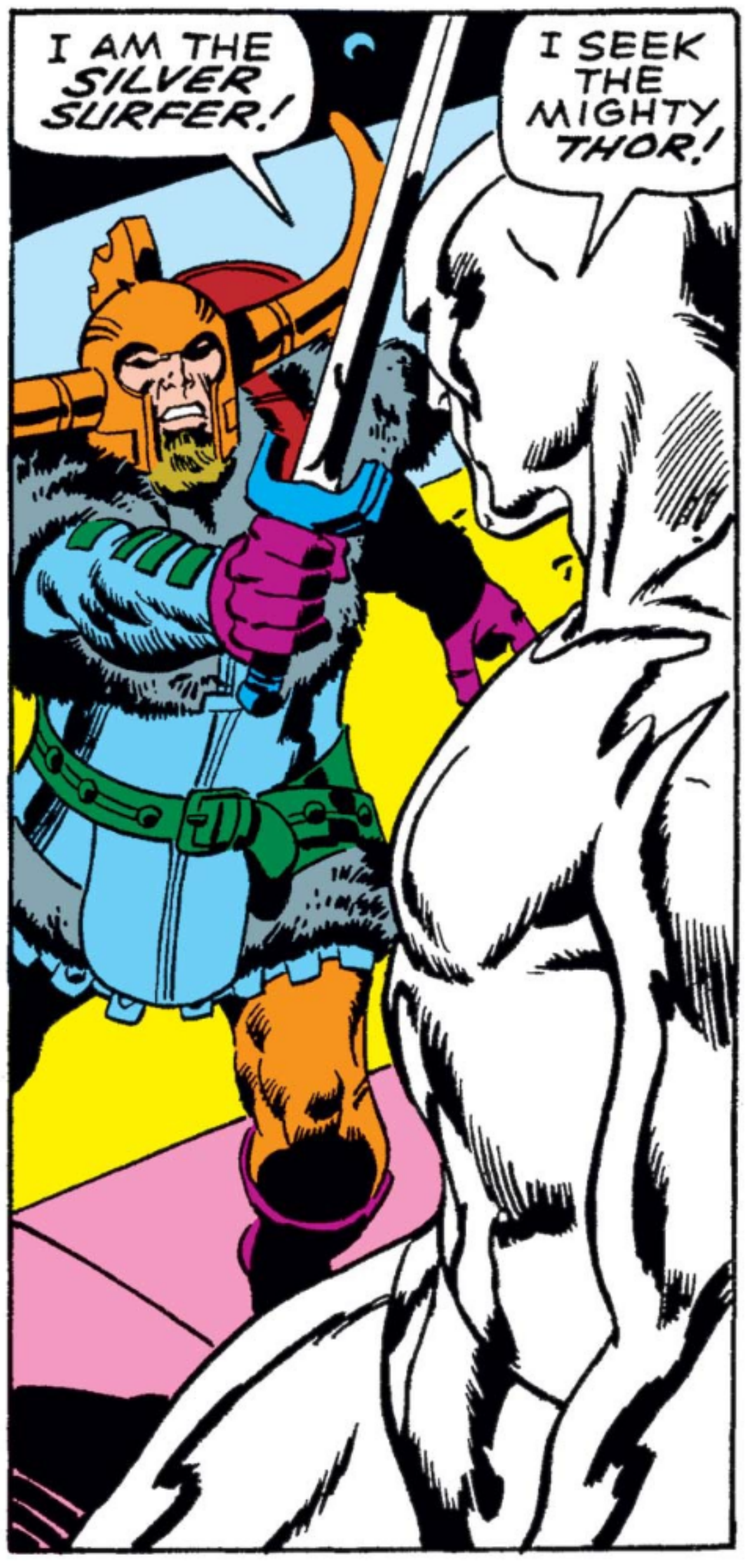
I KNOW HOW GALACTUS HATH TRAPPED THEE HERE!
BUT NO BARRIER CAN BAR THE WAY TO ASGARD!
THEN I WILL HEAR YOUR CAUSE!

THERE IS THE ONE OF WHOM I SPEAK!

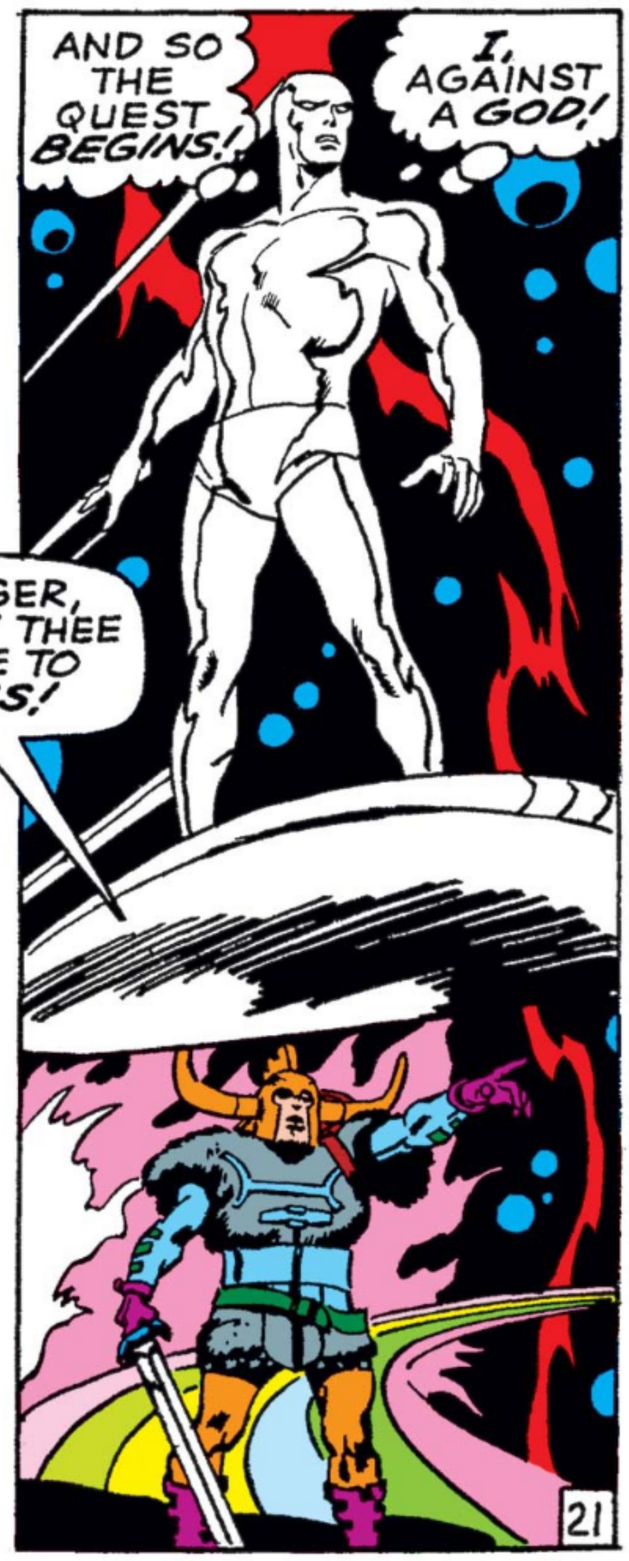
MY WRETCHED BROTHER-- THE THUNDER GOD, THOR!!

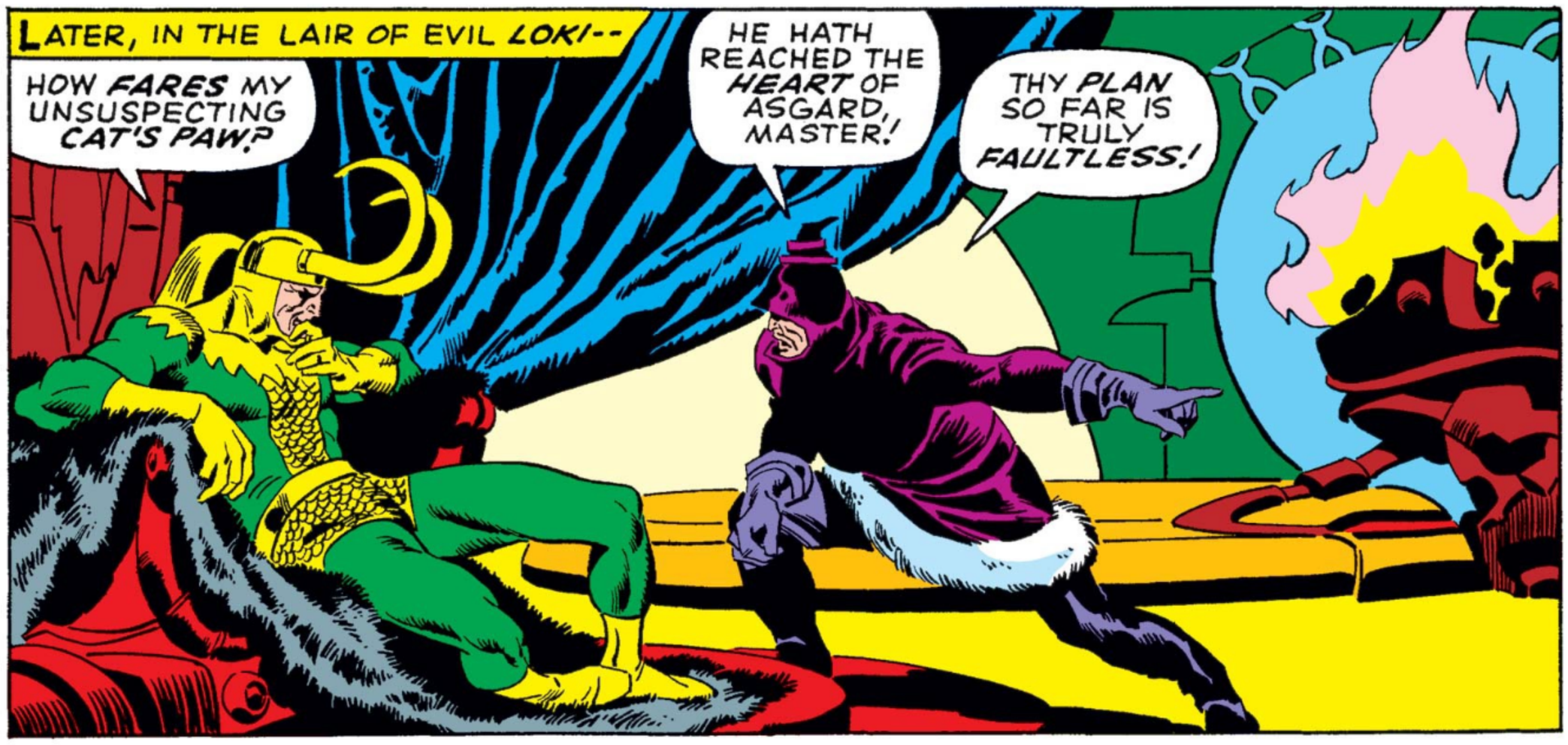

THOU HAST HEARD MY TALE! THOU HAST SEEN HIS LEGIONS--GIRDING FOR WAR!
HOW SAY THEE, SILVER SURFER?
AMONGST THE HUMANS --MY LIFE HAS LITTLE WORTH!
IF YOU CAN SEND ME--I WILL GO TO ASGARD!
I KNEW IT! THE SIGHT OF THOR--MARSHALLING HIS ARMIES--DID TRULY DECEIVE HIM!
HE COULD NOT SUSPECT MY ACCURSED BROTHER DOTH BUT PREPARE A DEFENSE--AGAINST LOKI HIMSELF!
IF I SUCCEED IN MY MISSION--
WILL I AGAIN BE FREE--TO ROAM THE SKYWAYS??
--TO RETURN--TO THE ONE I LOVE?
THOU HAST THE WORD OF LOKI!
NOW, UPON THY BOARD!! THE GREAT ADVENTURE DOTH LOOM AHEAD!
WE GO TO A PLACE THAT IS ALL-PLACE--
FURTHER THAN THE STARS--YET NEARER THAN THY TOUCH!
NOW SHUT THINE EYES--THEN OPEN THEM!
BEHOLD--THE REALM ETERNAL!!
YOU HAVE DONE IT! YOU HAVE BREACHED GALACTUS' BARRIER!
NO BARRIER MADE BY LIVING BEING--
CAN STAND AGAINST A GOD!


I CAN ACCOMPANY THEE NO FURTHER!
GO THOU ALONE--AND NONE SHALL SUSPECT!
SUSPECT WHAT?
THAT THY MISSION IS--TO VANQUISH THOR!
AND NOW--FAREWELL!
WITH BUT A GESTURE --HE IS GONE!
INTRUDER --HALT!
IDENTIFY THYSELF TO HEIMDALL!
FOR, I BE GUARDIAN OF THE GOLDEN GATES!


I AM THE SILVER SURFER!
I SEEK THE MIGHTY THOR!

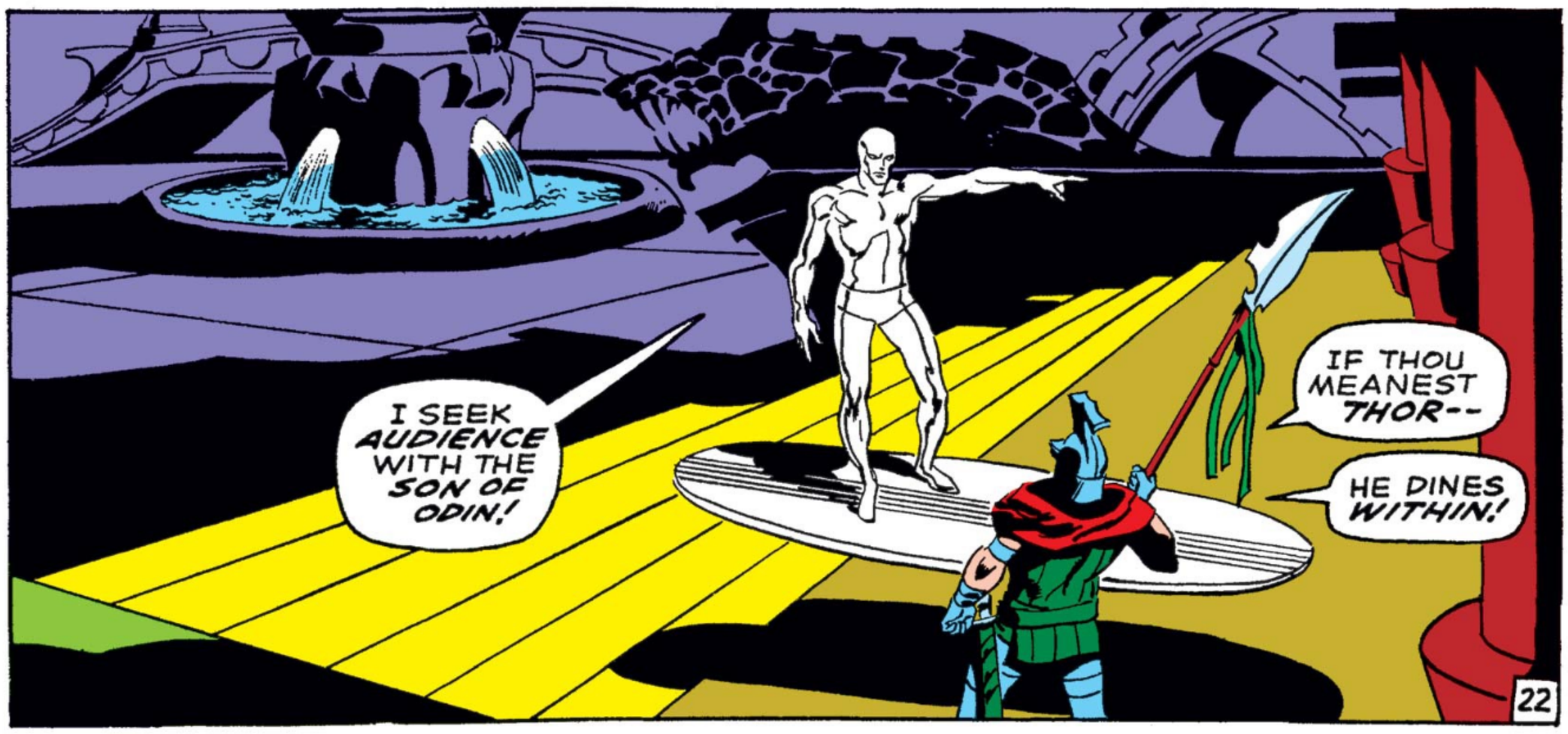
THOU ART ALONE --AND WEAPON-LESS!
SURELY, THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH NAUGHT TO FEAR FROM SUCH AS THEE!
STRANGER, I GRANT THEE LEAVE TO PASS!


AND SO THE QUEST BEGINS!
I, AGAINST A GOD!

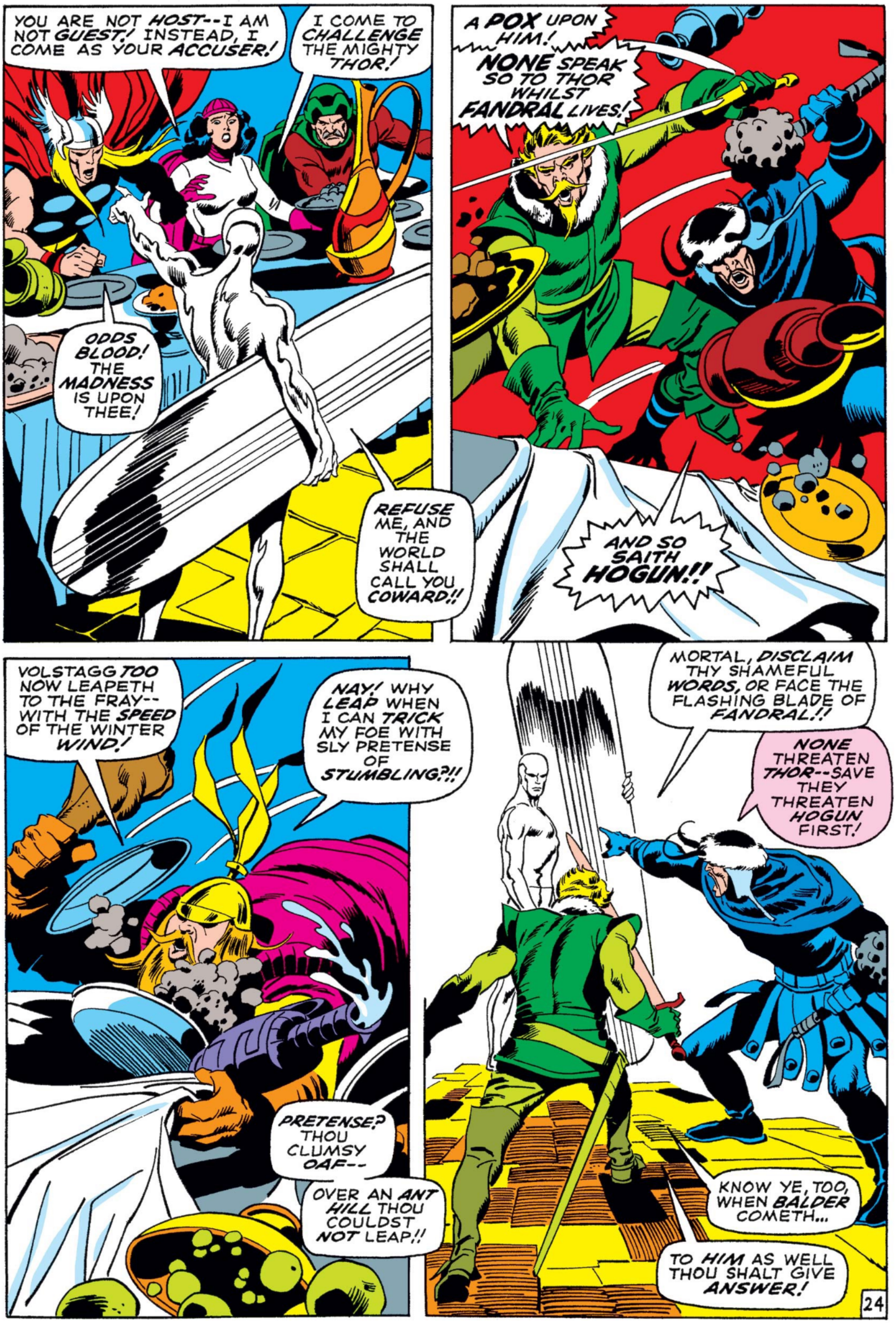

LATER, IN THE LAIR OF EVIL LOKI--
HOW FARES MY UNSUSPECTING CAT'S PAW?
HE HATH REACHED THE HEART OF ASGARD, MASTER!
THY PLAN SO FAR IS TRULY FAULTLESS!

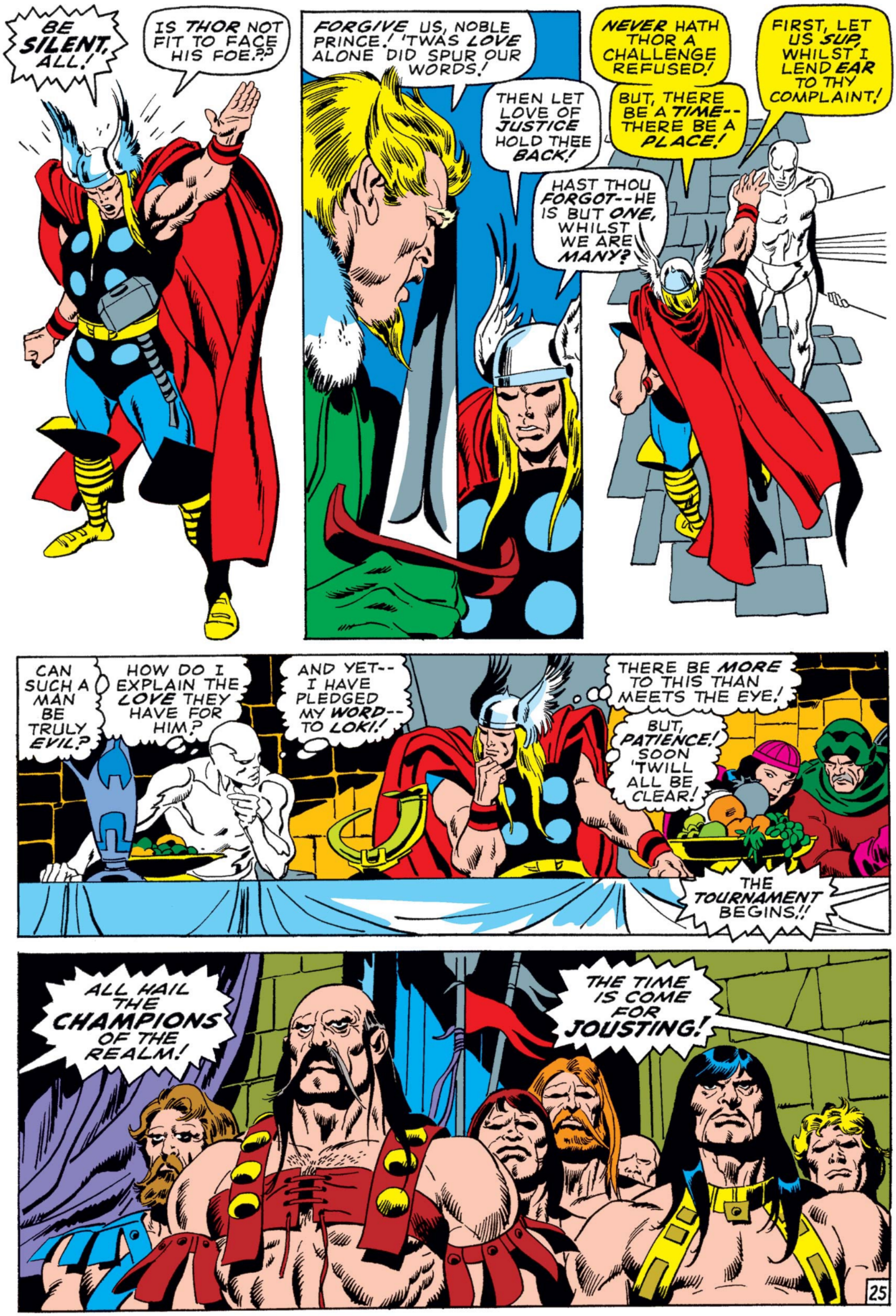
BE SILENT, THOU!
I NEED NO PRAISE FROM FAWNING SERVITOR!
I MUST SCHEME-- AND PLAN --AS NE'ER BEFORE!

HIM WHO IS CALLED THE SURFER, IS POSSESSED OF POWER COSMIC--
POWER, GREATER THAN EVEN HE DOTH KNOW!
IT MUST BE USED AS LOKI DOTH DIRECT!
USED TO CRUSH THE THUNDER GOD!

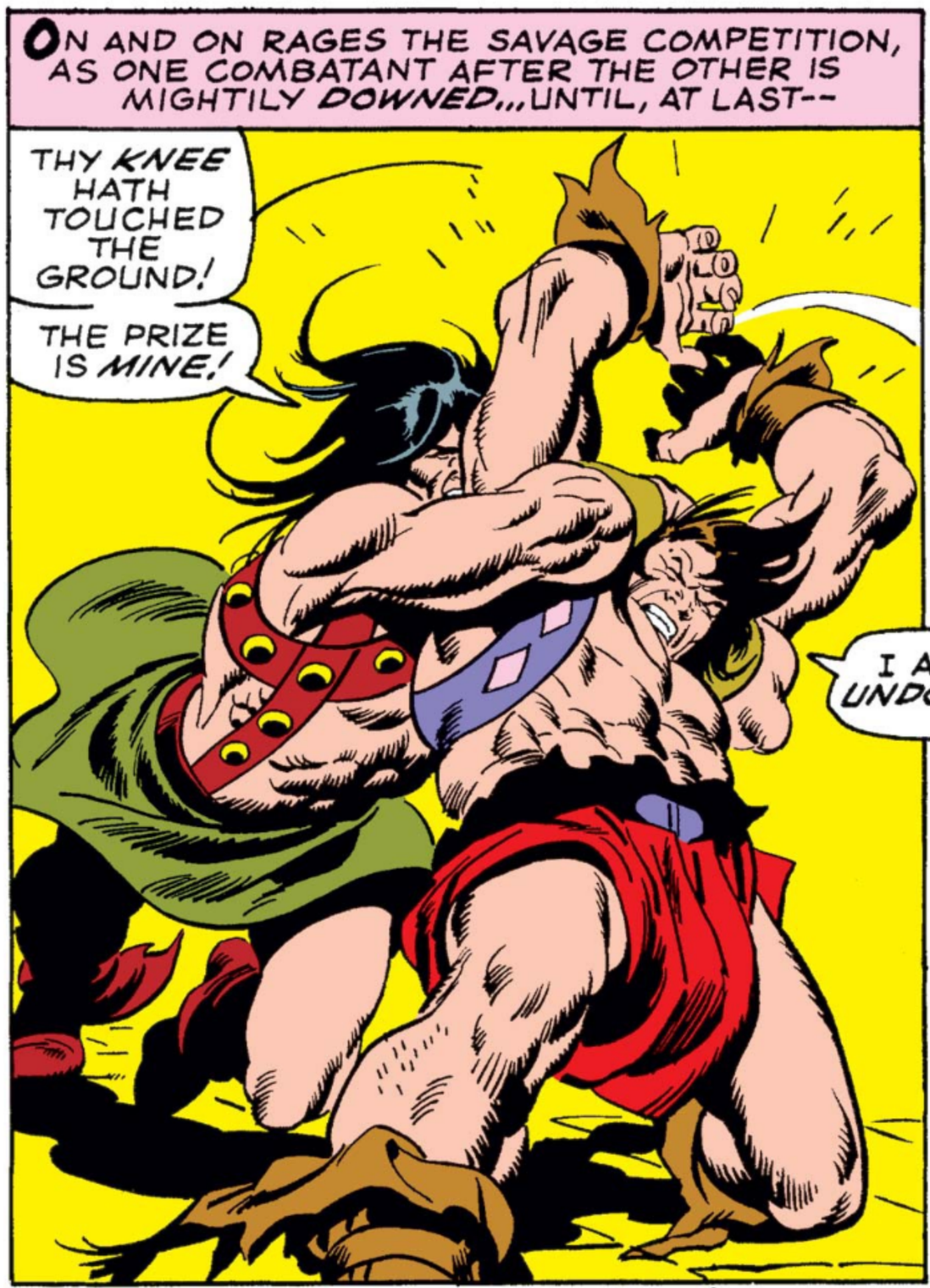

I SEEK AUDIENCE WITH THE SON OF ODIN!
IF THOU MEANEST THOR--
HE DINES WITHIN!

IMMORTALS OF ASGARD-- I CRAVE THY HEED!
A STRANGER HATH COME, WHO SEEKETH TO JOIN THEE!
HE WOULDST FAIN BASK IN THE PRESENCE OF MIGHTY THOR!
HOW SAY THEE, NOBLE LORDS??
A STRANGER IN ASGARD?
'TIS MOST PASSING RARE!
I SAY THEE-- ADMIT HIM!
HE DOTH CLAIM THE NAME OF SILVER SURFER!
HIS WORDS, SAITH HE, ARE FOR THOR ALONE!
METHINKS HE HATH A GRIM AND TROUBLED MIEN!
THEN BID HIM ENTER! SINCE WE BE HOST--HE BE OUR GUEST!
23

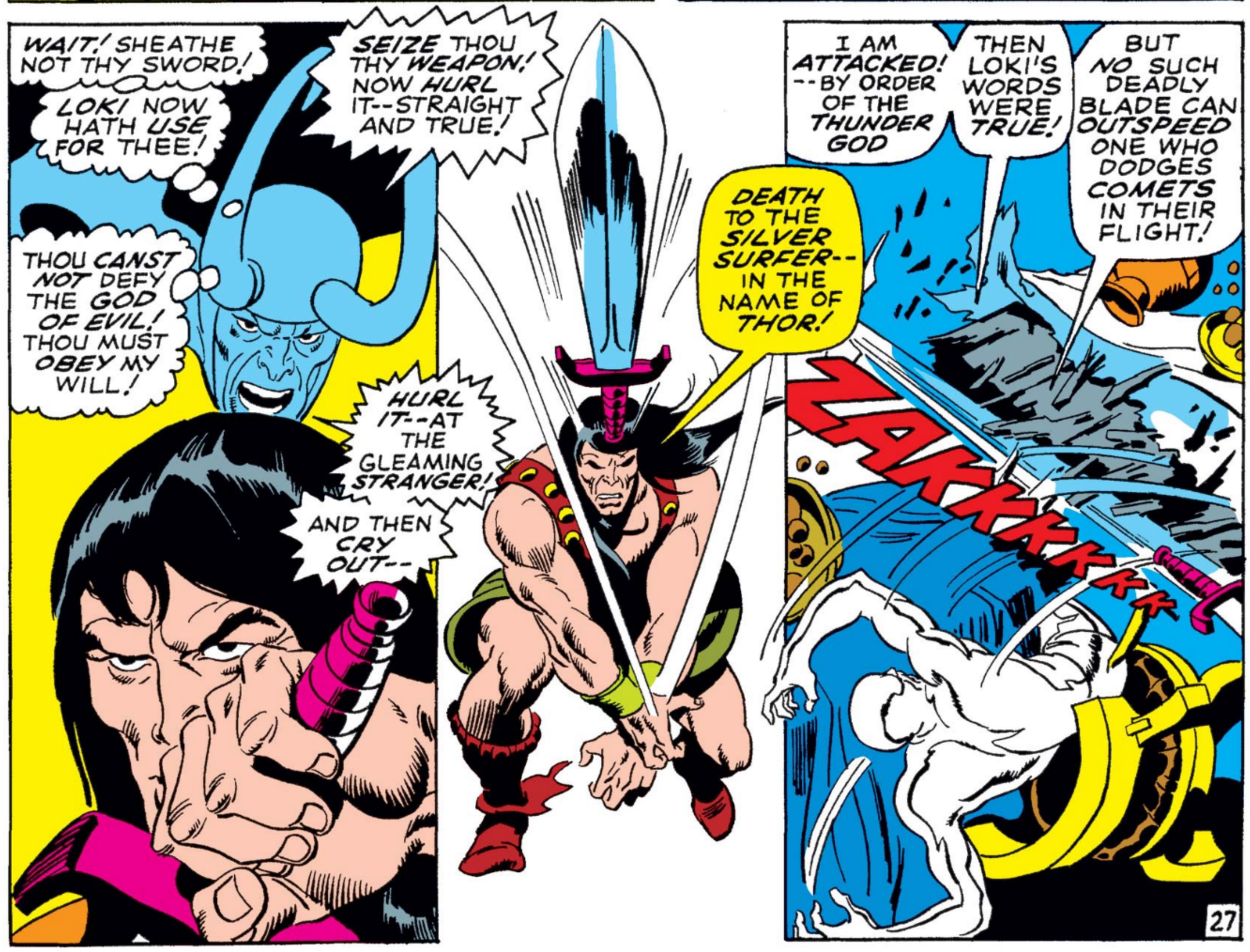

YOU ARE NOT HOST--I AM NOT GUEST! INSTEAD, I COME AS YOUR ACCUSER!
I COME TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHTY THOR!
ODDS BLOOD! THE MADNESS IS UPON THEE!
REFUSE ME, AND THE WORLD SHALL CALL YOU COWARD!!
A POX UPON HIM! NONE SPEAK SO TO THOR WHILST FANDRAL LIVES!
AND SO SAITH HOGUN!!
VOLSTAGG TOO NOW LEAPETH TO THE FRAY--WITH THE SPEED OF THE WINTER WIND!
NAY! WHY LEAP WHEN I CAN TRICK MY FOE WITH SLY PRETENSE OF STUMBLING?!!
PRETENSE? THOU CLUMSY OAF--
OVER AN ANT HILL THOU COULDST NOT LEAP!!
MORTAL, DISCLAIM THY SHAMEFUL WORDS, OR FACE THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL!!
NONE THREATEN THOR--SAVE THEY THREATEN HOGUN FIRST!
KNOW YE, TOO, WHEN BALDER COMETH...
TO HIM AS WELL THOU SHALT GIVE ANSWER!
24


BE SILENT, ALL!
IS THOR NOT FIT TO FACE HIS FOE??
FORGIVE US, NOBLE PRINCE! 'TWAS LOVE ALONE DID SPUR OUR WORDS!
THEN LET LOVE OF JUSTICE HOLD THEE BACK!
HAST THOU FORGOT--HE IS BUT ONE, WHILST WE ARE MANY?
NEVER HATH THOR A CHALLENGE REFUSED!
BUT, THERE BE A TIME--THERE BE A PLACE!
FIRST, LET US SUP, WHILST I LEND EAR TO THY COMPLAINT!
CAN SUCH A MAN BE TRULY EVIL?
HOW DO I EXPLAIN THE LOVE THEY HAVE FOR HIM?
AND YET--I HAVE PLEDGED MY WORD--TO LOKI!
THERE BE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE!
BUT, PATIENCE! SOON 'TWILL ALL BE CLEAR!
THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS!!
ALL HAIL THE CHAMPIONS OF THE REALM!
THE TIME IS COME FOR JOUSTING!

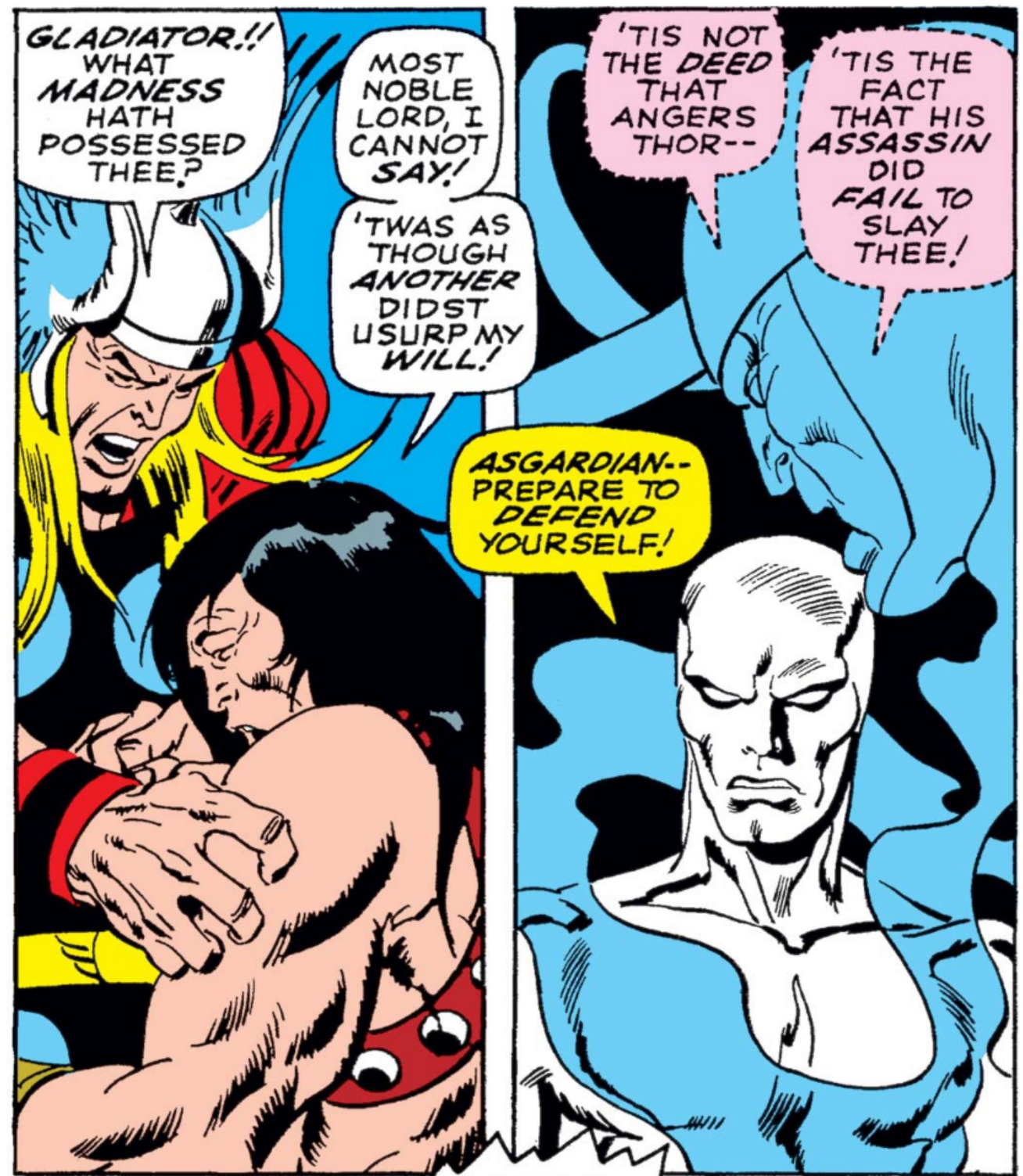
AND SO, 'MIDST ASGARDIAN POMP AND PAGEANTRY, THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS--
THOOM! THOOM!
TO THE VICTOR SHALL GO THIS SHINING SABRE--
SECOND ONLY TO FANDRAL'S FLASHING BLADE!
BUT, 'TIS NO MERE TROPHY 'PON WHICH MY MIND DOTH DWELL--
'TIS THE TROUBLED STRANGER WITHIN OUR MIDST!
THE MOMENT IS RIPE!
AGAIN MUST I ASSUME MY ASTRAL FORM--
TO INSURE THE DOWN-FALL OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BATTLE ON, THOU WITLESS PAWNS!
FOR WHEN YE CEASE, THE BATTLE TRUE BEGINS!
WHAT? BALDER HATH SO SOON ARRIVED?
BUT FIE UPON IT! 'TIS OF LITTLE CONSE-QUENCE!
WITH DARK SUSPICIONS MUST I FILL MY AGENT'S MIND!
A STRANGER DINES IN BALDER'S PLACE!
BUT, NO MATTER! I DO CONTENT MYSELF TO STAND!
SUDDENLY, I SENSE GREAT EVIL IN THE AIR!
BUT, HOW AM I TO STRIKE--HOW CAN I ATTACK--
WHEN, AS YET, I HAVE NO CAUSE??
26

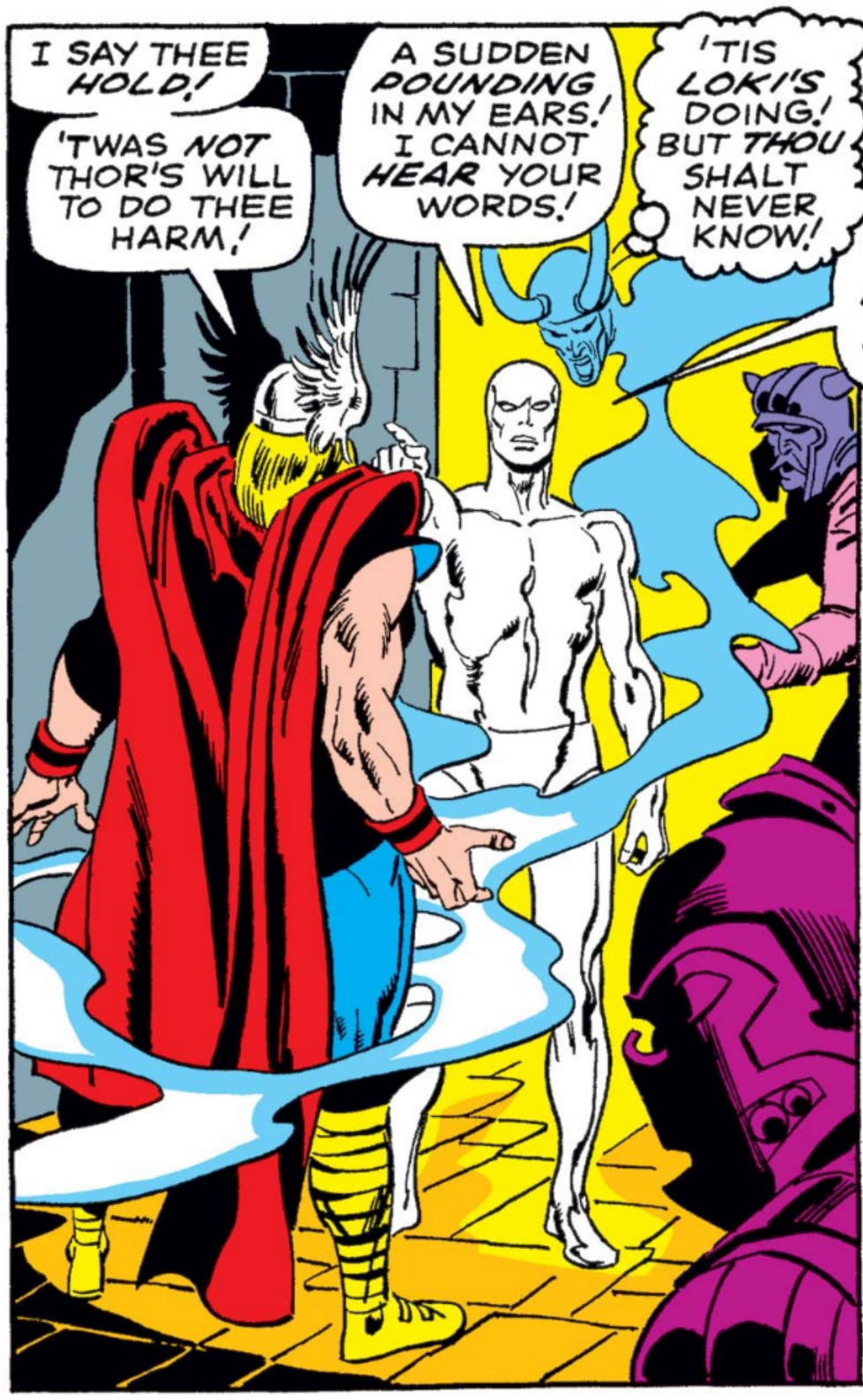

ON AND ON RAGES THE SAVAGE COMPETITION, AS ONE COMBATANT AFTER THE OTHER IS MIGHTILY DOWNED...UNTIL, AT LAST--
THY KNEE HATH TOUCHED THE GROUND!
THE PRIZE IS MINE!
I AM UNDONE!

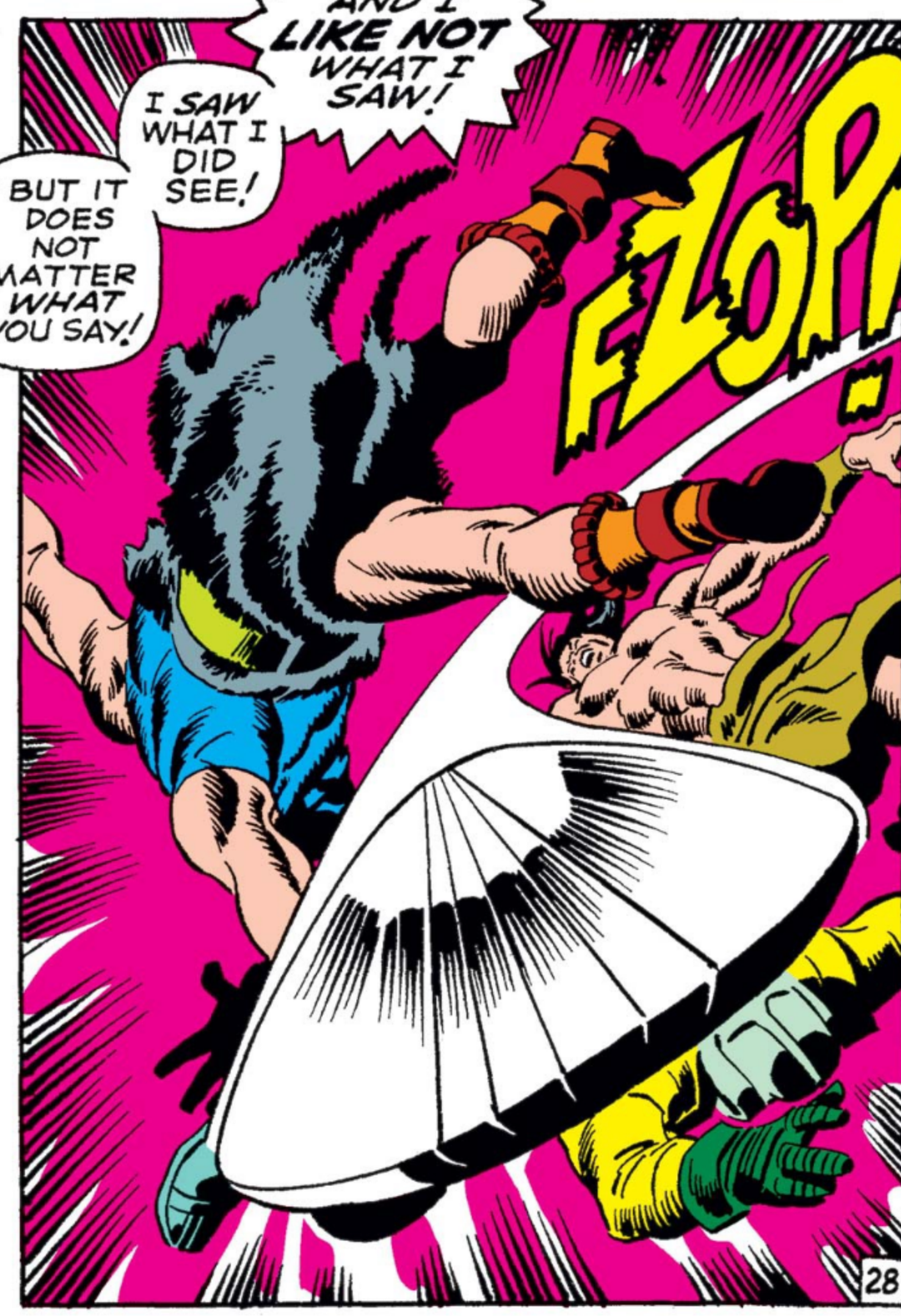
GLADIATOR--STEP THOU FORTH!
WHY DOTH GRIM FORE-BODING NOW ENGULF ME?
HERE, FROM THE HAND OF THOR--THE FRUIT OF THY VICTORY!
WHAT EVIL FORCE IS HERE AT PLAY?
ASGARD FORE'ER!! THE JOUST IS ENDED!


WAIT! SHEATHE NOT THY SWORD!
LOKI NOW HATH USE FOR THEE!
SEIZE THOU THY WEAPON! NOW HURL IT--STRAIGHT AND TRUE!
THOU CANST NOT DEFY THE GOD OF EVIL! THOU MUST OBEY MY WILL!
HURL IT--AT THE GLEAMING STRANGER!
AND THEN CRY OUT--
DEATH TO THE SILVER SURFER--IN THE NAME OF THOR!
I AM ATTACKED! --BY ORDER OF THE THUNDER GOD
THEN LOKI'S WORDS WERE TRUE!
BUT NO SUCH DEADLY BLADE CAN OUTSPEED ONE WHO DODGES COMETS IN THEIR FLIGHT!
ZAKKKKKK

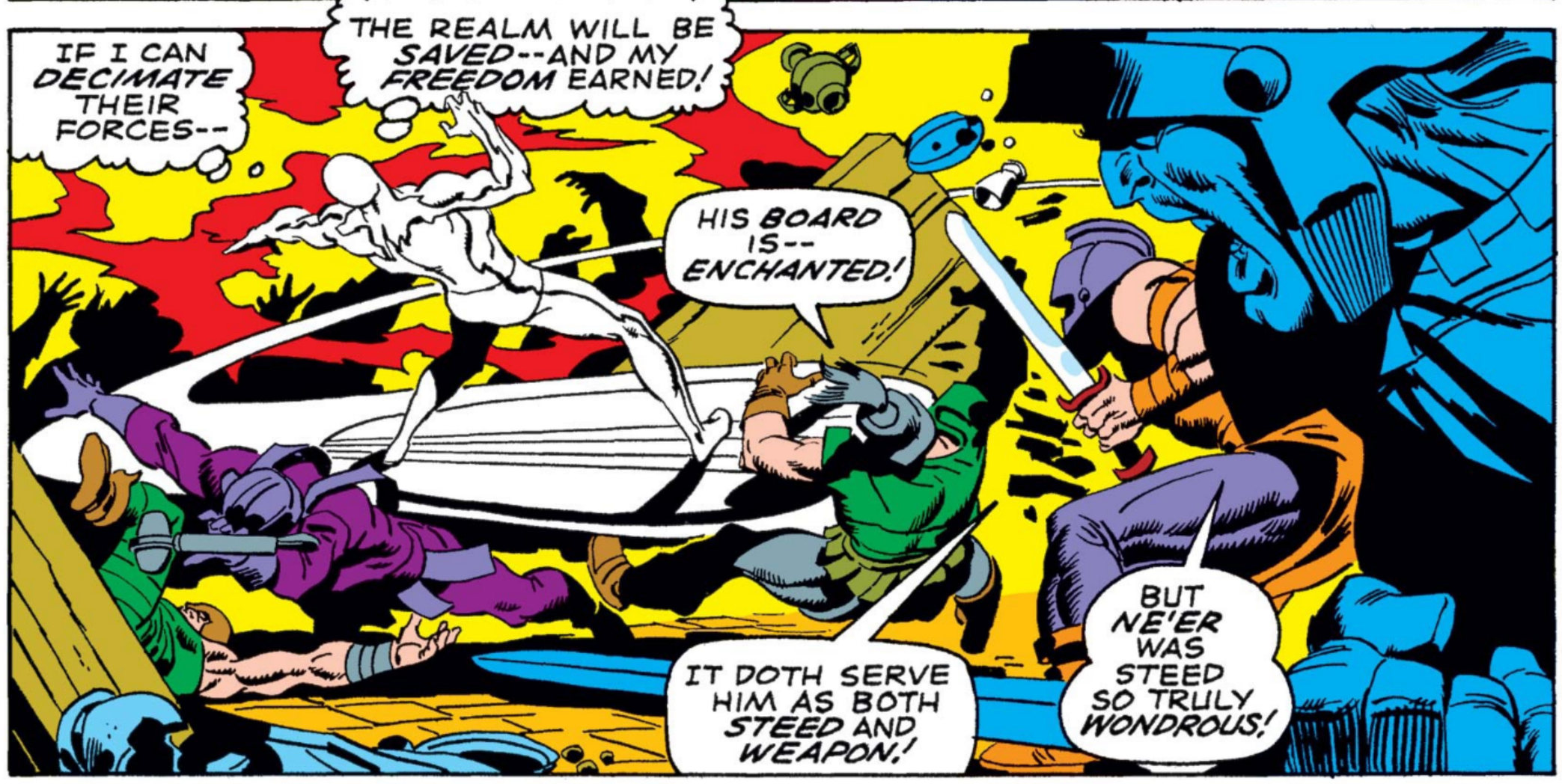
AT LAST! THE MASK OF DECEPTION HAS BEEN STRIPPED FROM YOUR FACES!
YOU STAND REVEALED AS MURDERERS ALL!
NAY! NE'ER BEFORE HATH SUCH A HAPPEN-STANCE OCCURRED!


GLADIATOR!! WHAT MADNESS HATH POSSESSED THEE?
MOST NOBLE LORD, I CANNOT SAY!
'TWAS AS THOUGH ANOTHER DIDST USURP MY WILL!
'TIS NOT THE DEED THAT ANGERS THOR--
'TIS THE FACT THAT HIS ASSASSIN DID FAIL TO SLAY THEE!
ASGARDIAN-- PREPARE TO DEFEND YOURSELF!

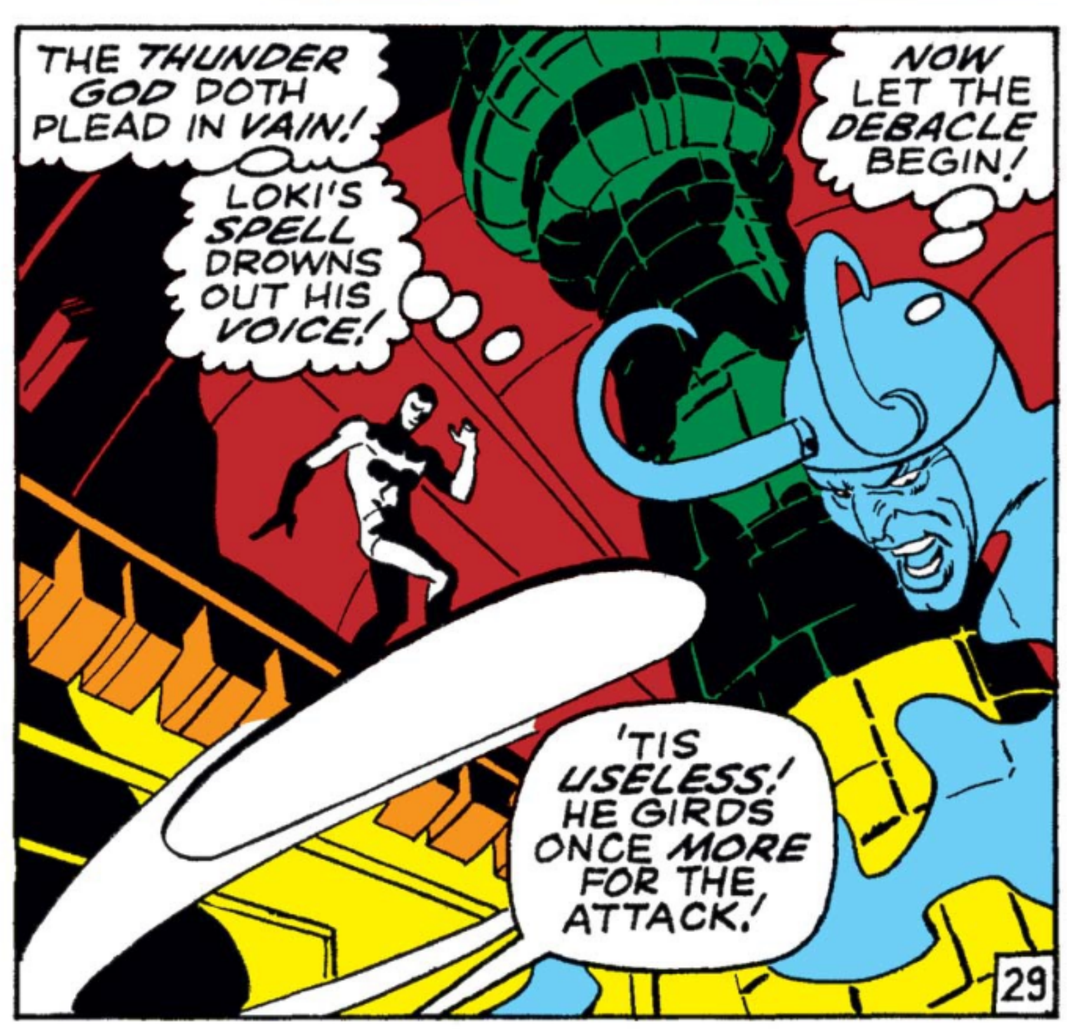

I SAY THEE HOLD!
'TWAS NOT THOR'S WILL TO DO THEE HARM!
A SUDDEN POUNDING IN MY EARS! I CANNOT HEAR YOUR WORDS!
'TIS LOKI'S DOING! BUT THOU SHALT NEVER KNOW!


BUT IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU SAY!
I SAW WHAT I DID SEE!
AND I LIKE NOT WHAT I SAW!
FZOP!

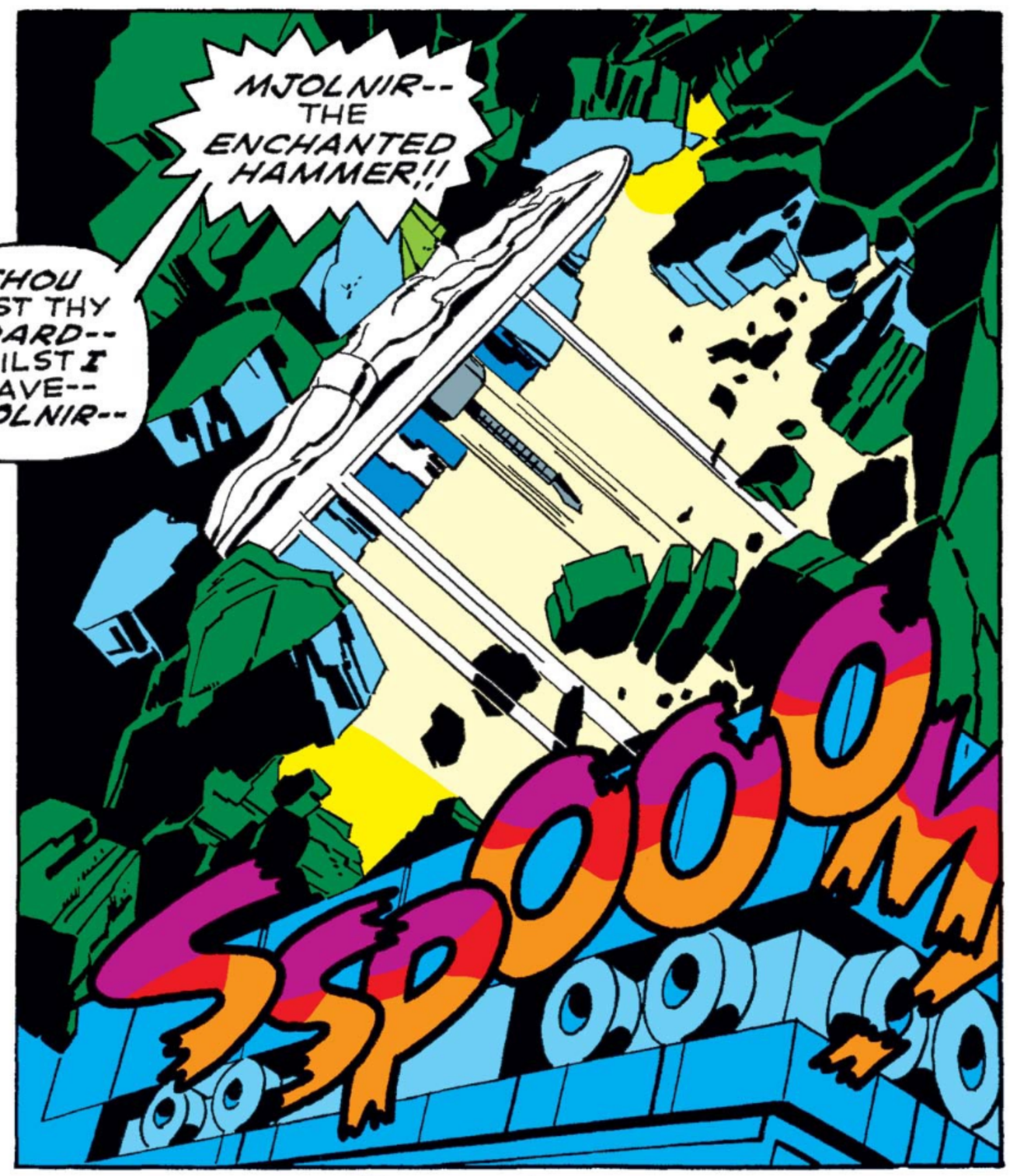
THEY HAVE PROVEN BY THEIR DEEDS THAT THE ONE CALLED LOKI SPOKE THE TRUTH!
THEY ARE WARLIKE, MERCILESS, AND DEADLY!
THEY STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING--WITHOUT REMORSE!
AND NOW I MUST DO THE SAME!
LOOK TO THINE ARMS!! THE STRANGER ATTACKS!

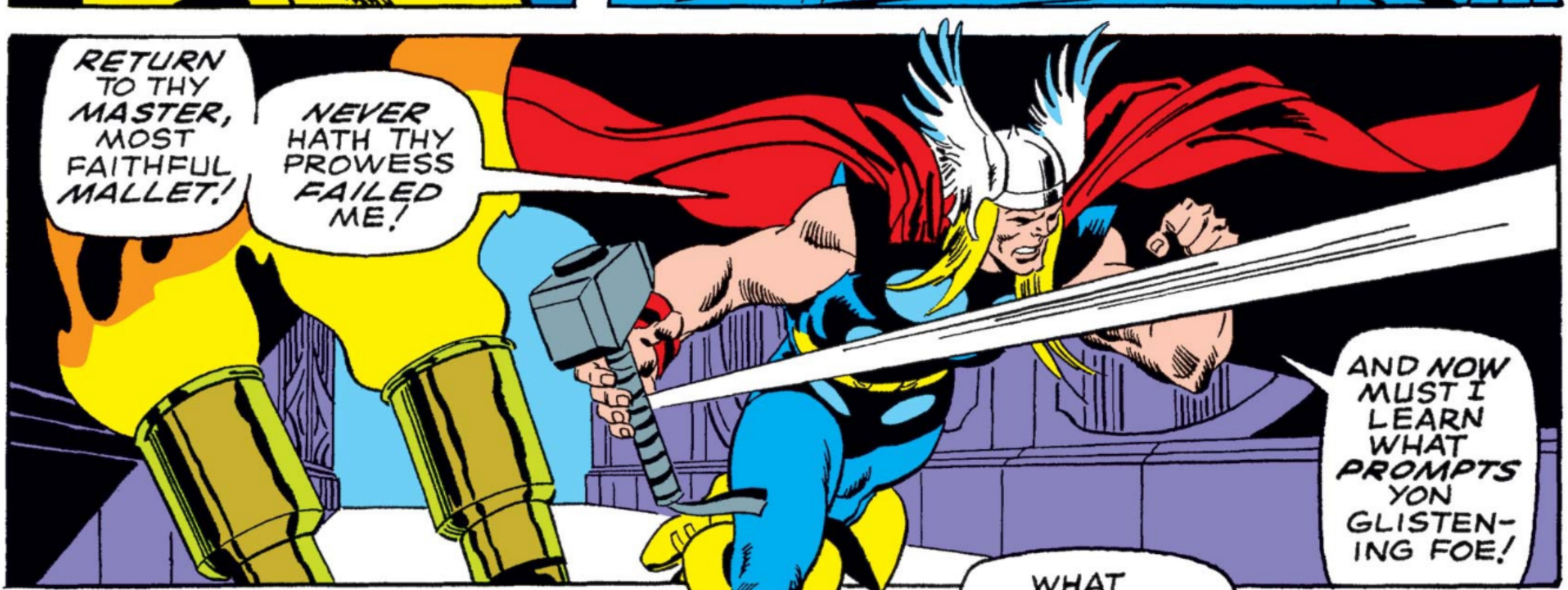

IF I CAN DECIMATE THEIR FORCES--
THE REALM WILL BE SAVED--AND MY FREEDOM EARNED!
HIS BOARD IS--ENCHANTED!
IT DOTH SERVE HIM AS BOTH STEED AND WEAPON!
BUT NE'ER WAS STEED SO TRULY WONDROUS!

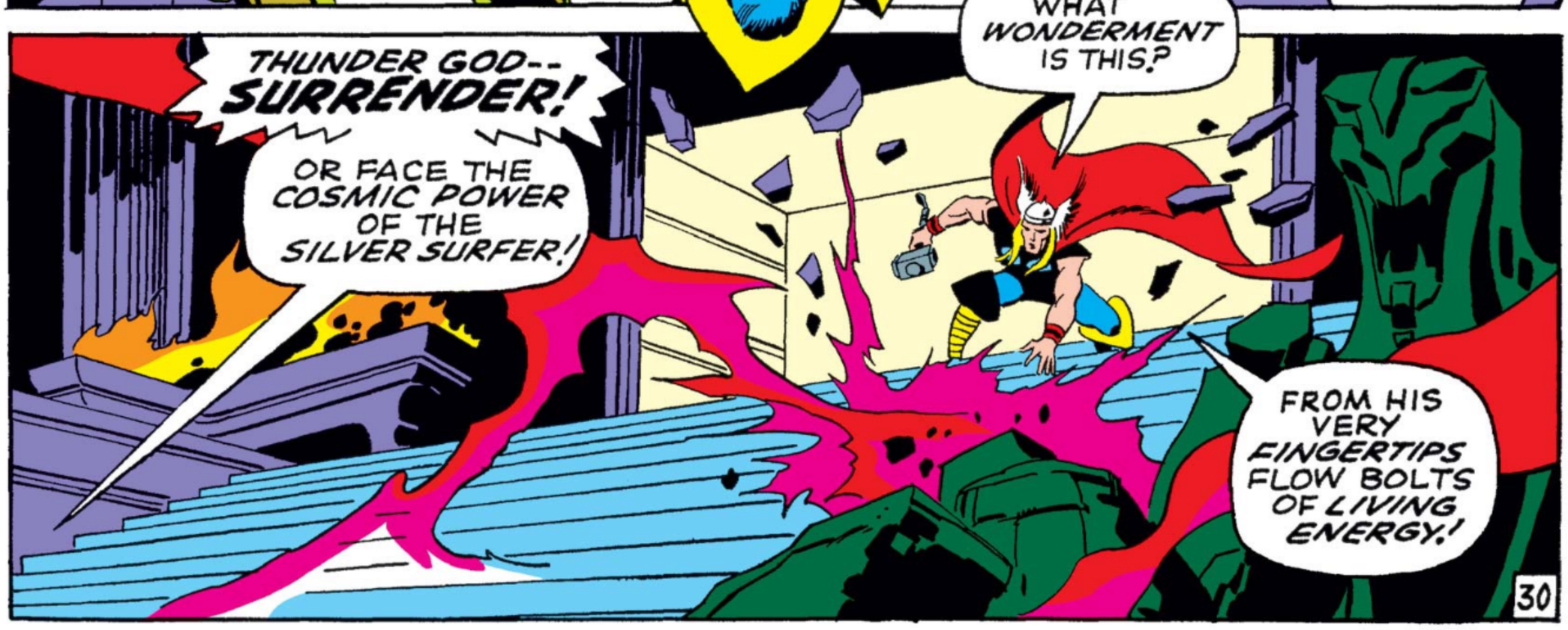
STRANGER--STAY THY FLIGHT!
THOR HAS NO WISH TO DO THEE HARM!
HE DOTH IGNORE THY WORDS, MY LORD!

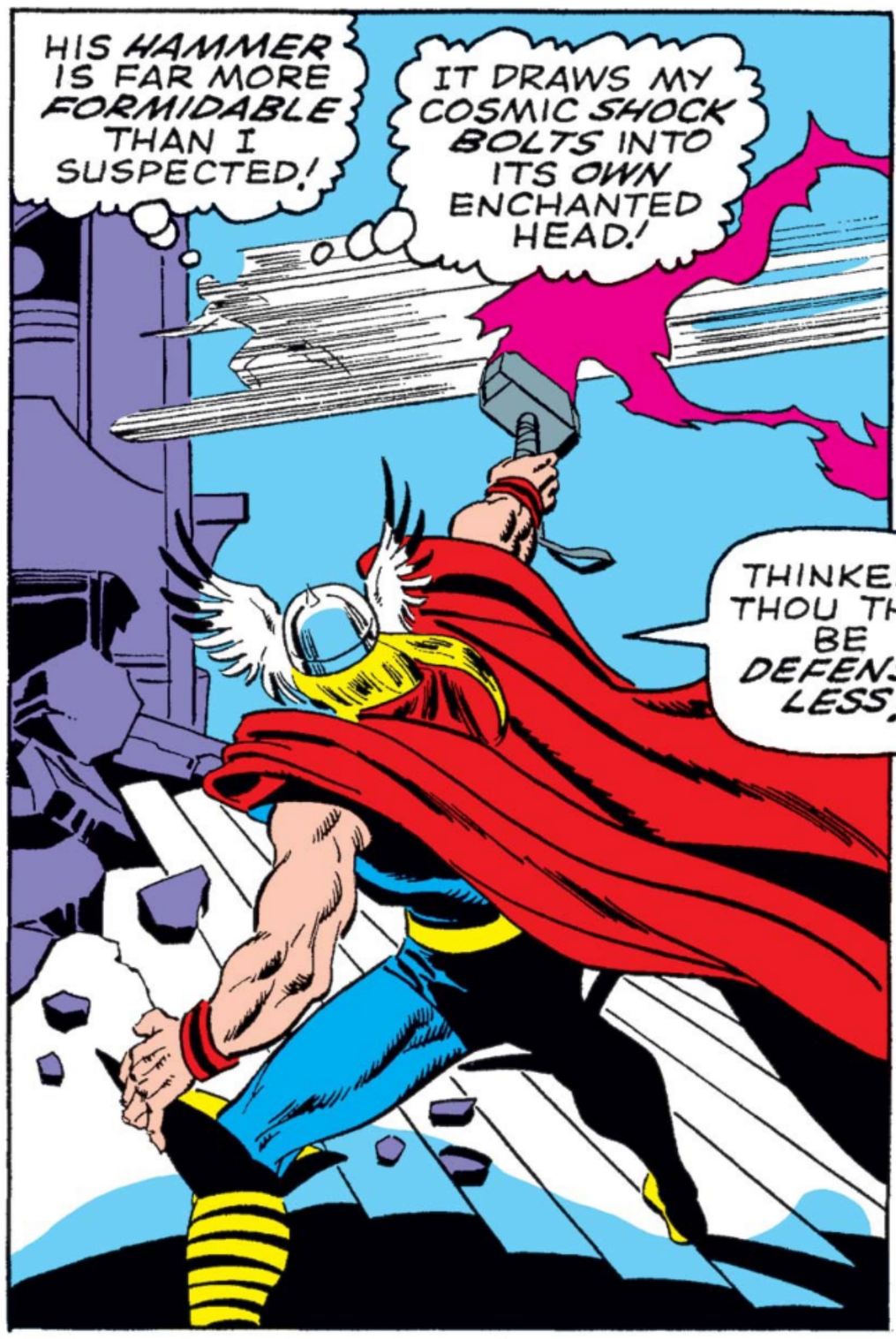

THE THUNDER GOD DOTH PLEAD IN VAIN!
LOKI'S SPELL DROWNS OUT HIS VOICE!
NOW LET THE DEBACLE BEGIN!
'TIS USELESS! HE GIRDS ONCE MORE FOR THE ATTACK!

IF REASON THEN SHALL NOT PREVAIL--
NO STRANGER IS THE THUNDER GOD TO THE USE OF SHATTERING FORCE!

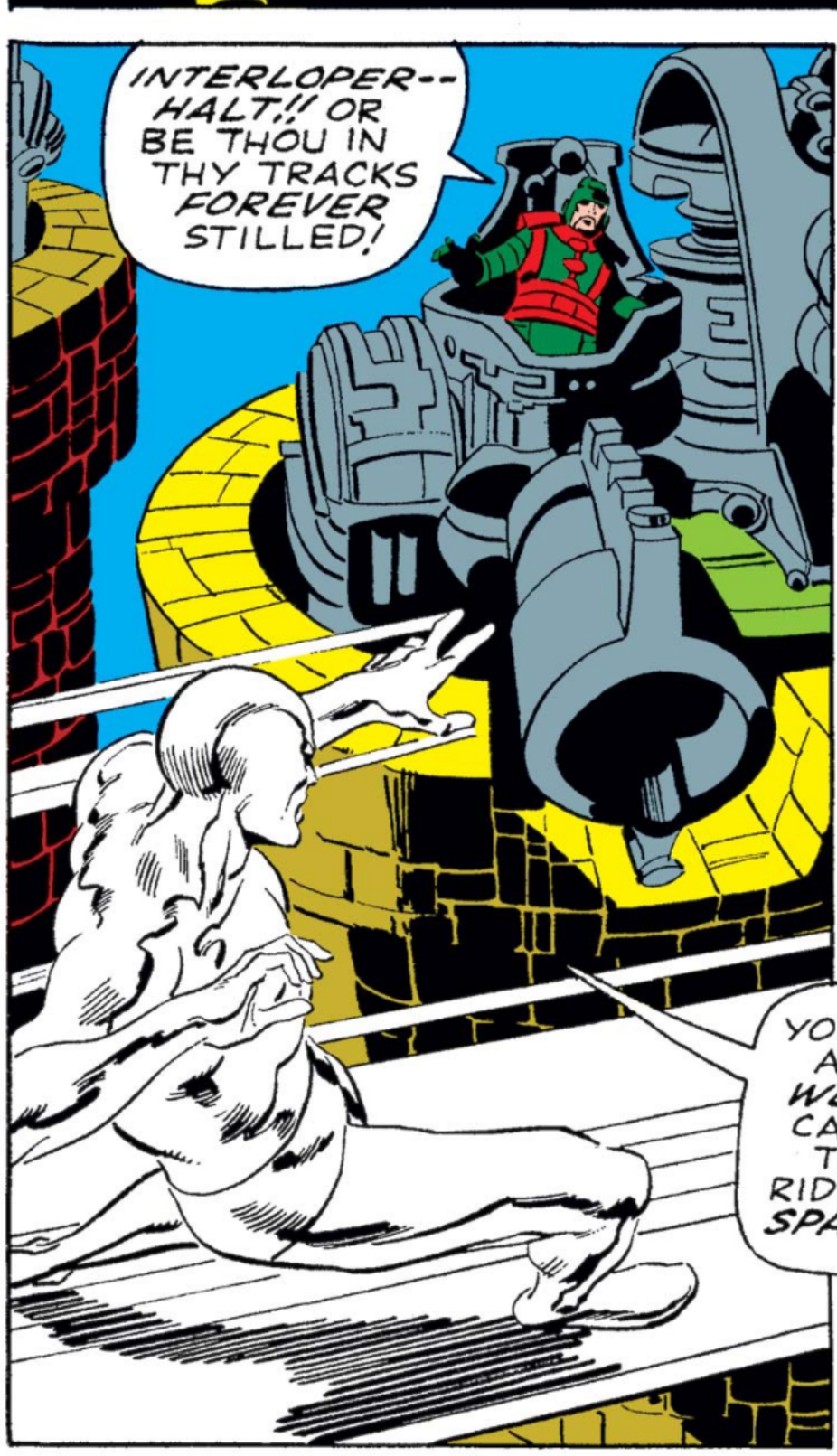

MJOLNIR-- THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!!
THOU HAST THY BOARD-- WHILST I HAVE-- MJOLNIR--
SSPOOOM


RETURN TO THY MASTER, MOST FAITHFUL MALLET!
NEVER HATH THY PROWESS FAILED ME!
AND NOW MUST I LEARN WHAT PROMPTS YON GLISTENING FOE!


THUNDER GOD-- SURRENDER!
OR FACE THE COSMIC POWER OF THE SILVER SURFER!
WHAT WONDERMENT IS THIS?
FROM HIS VERY FINGERTIPS FLOW BOLTS OF LIVING ENERGY!


HIS HAMMER IS FAR MORE FORMIDABLE THAN I SUSPECTED!
IT DRAWS MY COSMIC SHOCK BOLTS INTO ITS OWN ENCHANTED HEAD!
THINKEST THOU THOR BE DEFENSE-LESS?!!

NO WISH HAVE I TO SLAY SO MISGUIDED AN ADVERSARY!
AND YET, HOW AM I TO SMOTHER THE FLAME OF FURY IN HIS SOUL?
A FLAME WITH WHICH THOU SOON SHALT BE CONSUMED, ACCURSED ONE!


INTERLOPER-- HALT!! OR BE THOU IN THY TRACKS FOREVER STILLED!
YOU THINK A MERE WEAPON CAN STOP THE SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS??

THEN THINK AGAIN, ASGARDIAN!!

SENTRY! THOU SHOULDST NOT HAVE THREATENED HIM!
BUT HE SEEKS TO RAVAGE THE REALM, MY PRINCE!
TAKE UNTO THYSELF A HEALING HERB!
--WHILST THOR NOW MAKES HIS JUDGE-MENT!
I SEE WHY LOKI HAD NEED OF ME!
ASGARD HAS POWER BEYOND COMPARE!
AND, THE STRONGEST OF ALL--IS THOR!
BUT, THIS IS NO TIME FOR MUSING--
I MUST FIGHT ON!
SEE THE DESTRUCTION! SEE THE UTTER CARNAGE!
HOW IT DOTH WARM THE ROYAL HEART OF CUNNING LOKI!
TELL ME, MASTER--HOW CAN YON STRANGER O'ERCOME THOR--WHEN EVEN THOU HAST EVER FAILED?
FOOL! HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOT?
LOKI'S POWER HATH BEEN MERGED WITH HIS!
ALTHOUGH HE KNOWS IT NOT!
THRU MINE OWN ENCHANT-MENT, HE IS STRONGER FAR THAN E'ER HE COULD SUSPECT!
THUS, HE MUST SURELY WIN--OR PERISH!
MEANWHILE, A GRIM-VISAGED MESSENGER DESPERATELY ENTERS THE GREAT CHAMBER OF THE TOWERING CASTLE IMPERIAL--
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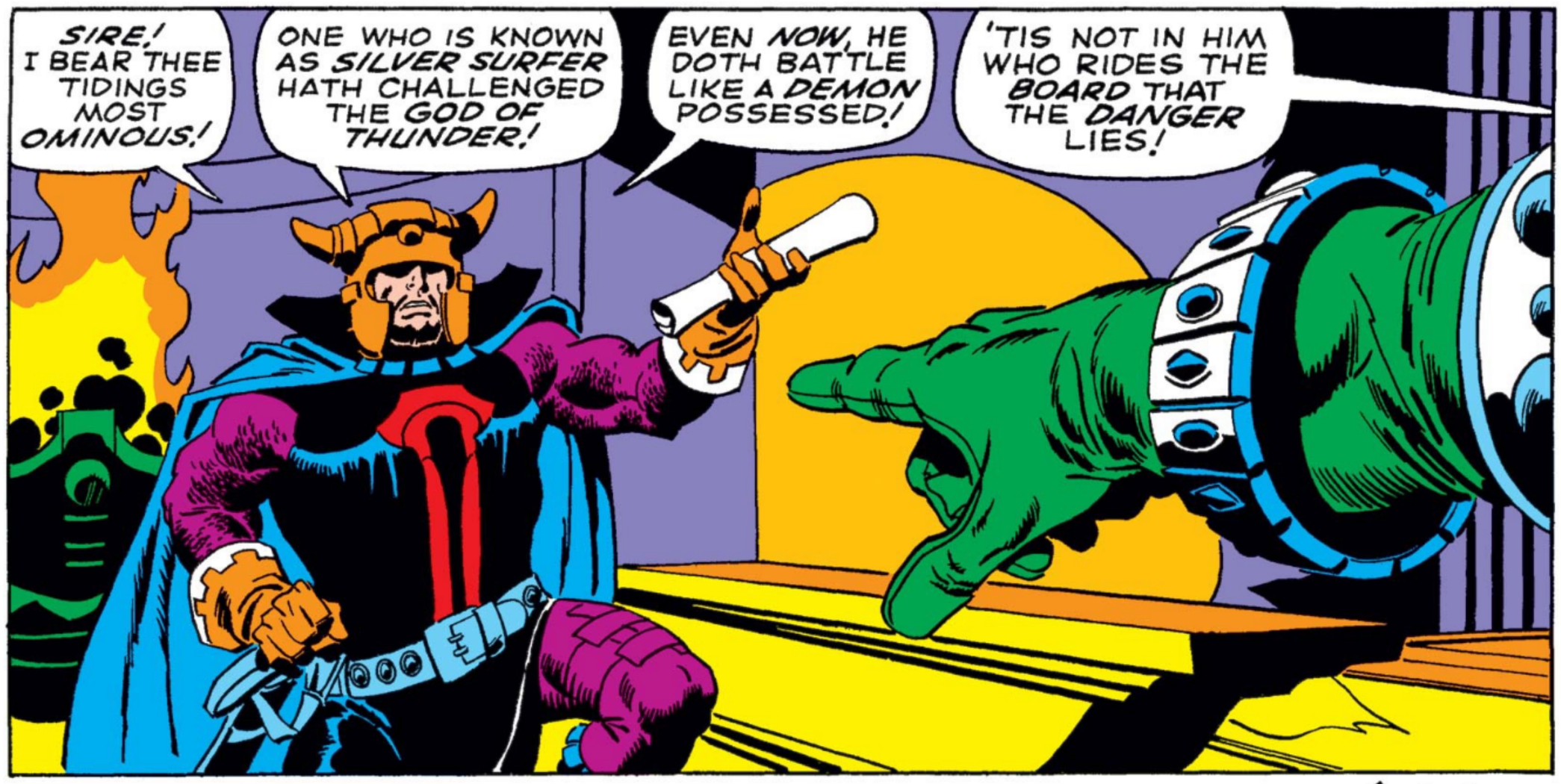
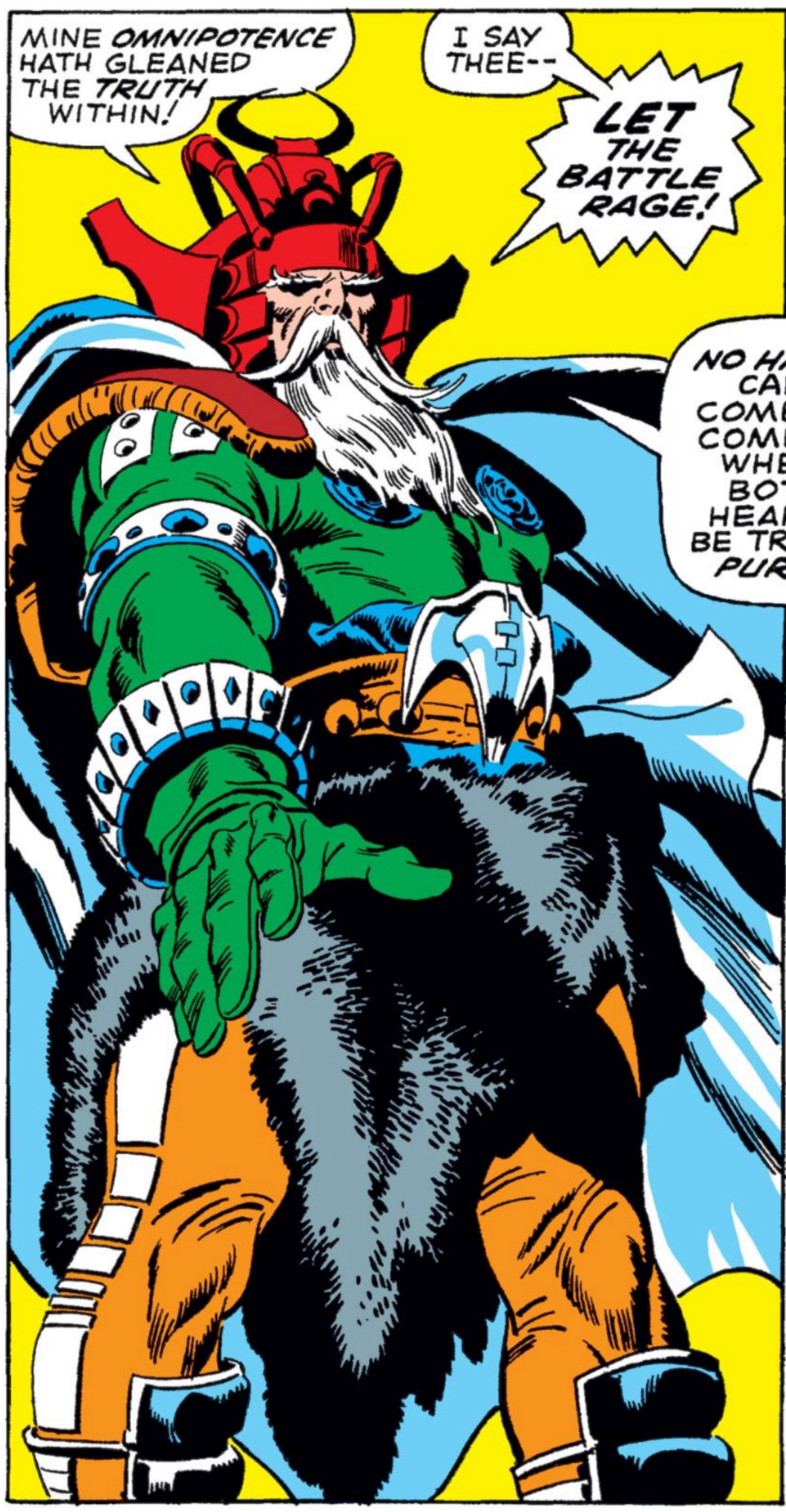

SIRE! I BEAR THEE TIDINGS MOST OMINOUS!
ONE WHO IS KNOWN AS SILVER SURFER HATH CHALLENGED THE GOD OF THUNDER!
EVEN NOW, HE DOTH BATTLE LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED!
'TIS NOT IN HIM WHO RIDES THE BOARD THAT THE DANGER LIES!


MINE OMNIPOTENCE HATH GLEANED THE TRUTH WITHIN!
I SAY THEE--
LET THE BATTLE RAGE!
NO HARM CAN COME IN COMBAT WHEN BOTH HEARTS BE TRULY PURE!

UPON ITSELF DOTH EVIL FEED--AND ALL 'TWILL SOON BE WELL!
SO SAITH ODIN!

ATTEND ME NOW--FOR I GROW WEARY!
MAKE READY THE BEDCHAMBER ROYAL!

AND, AS ALL WITHIN HEARING PONDER THE *MEANING* OF ODIN'S CRYPTIC WORDS...THE TWO MIGHTY *PROTAGONISTS* FACE EACH OTHER ONCE AGAIN-- AS THE SUBTLE WEB OF *FATE* DRAWS EVER TIGHTER--

RIDER OF THE SILVER *SPACEBOARD*, KNOW THOU *THIS*--

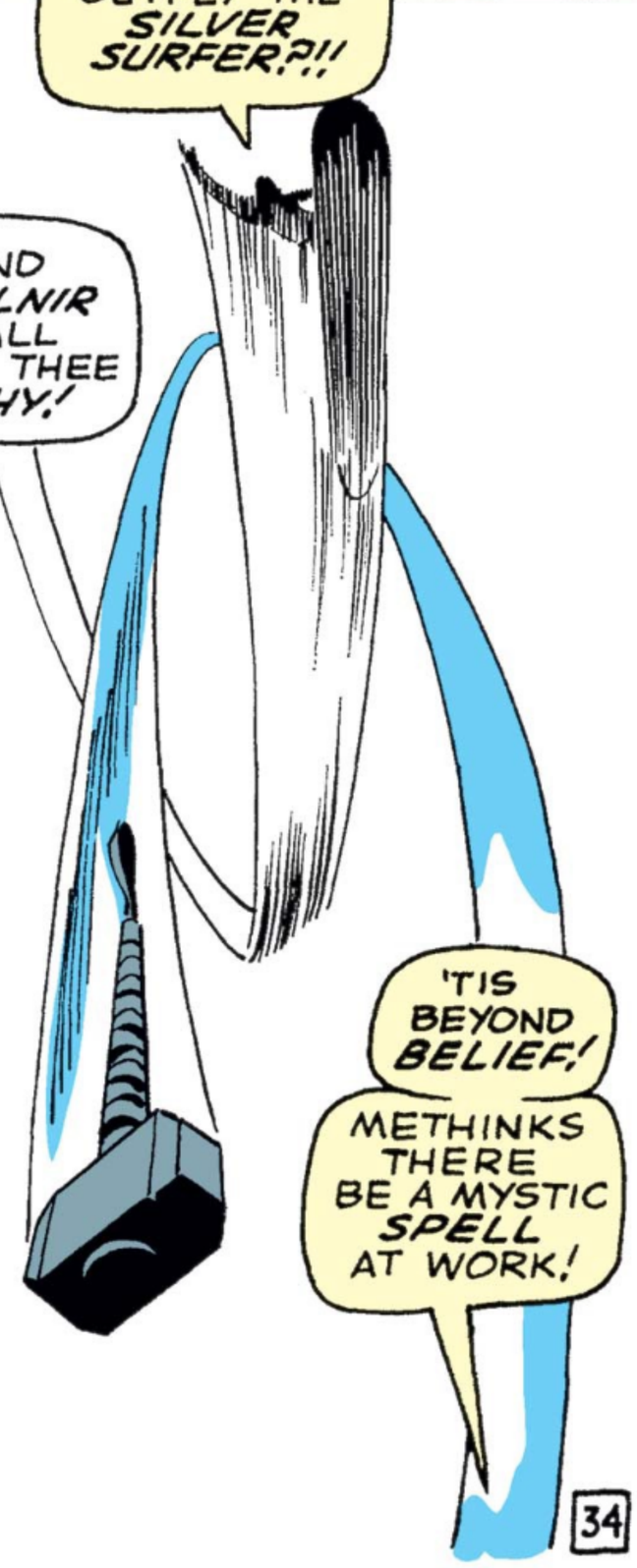
THE PATIENCE OF THE *THUNDER GOD* HATH SURELY REACHED AN *ENDING!*

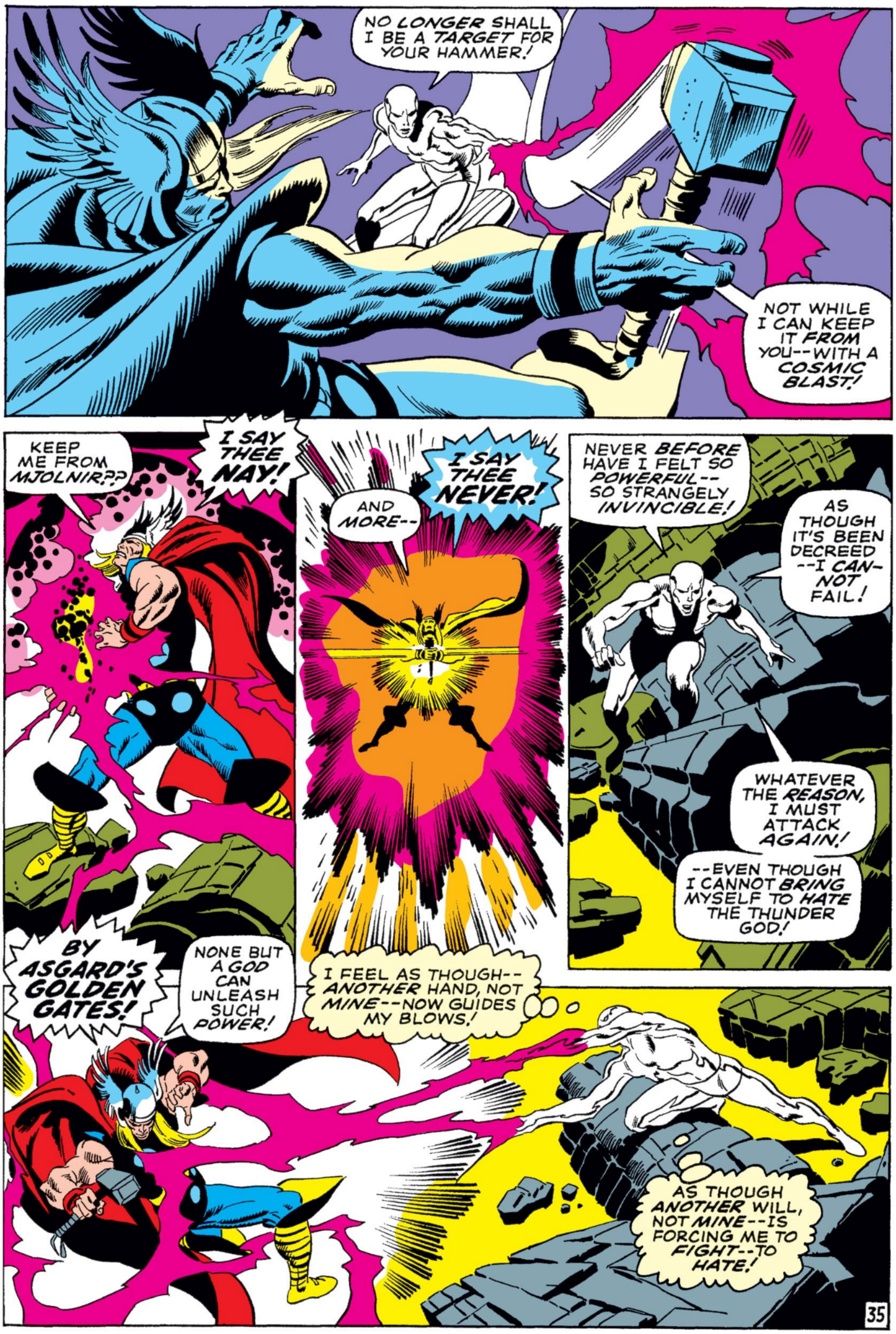
SPEAK NOT TO ME OF *PATIENCE!*

NO PATIENCE HAS THE *SILVER SURFER* FOR THOSE WHO WOULD BE *CONQUERORS!*

WHAT? THOU CALLEST ME *CONQUEROR?*

CAN A MERE *HAMMER* OUTFLY THE *SILVER SURFER?!!*




NO LONGER SHALL I BE A TARGET FOR YOUR HAMMER!
NOT WHILE I CAN KEEP IT FROM YOU--WITH A COSMIC BLAST!
KEEP ME FROM MJOLNIR??
I SAY THEE NAY!
AND MORE--
I SAY THEE NEVER!
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FELT SO POWERFUL--SO STRANGELY INVINCIBLE!
AS THOUGH IT'S BEEN DECREED --I CAN-NOT FAIL!
WHATEVER THE REASON, I MUST ATTACK AGAIN!
--EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO HATE THE THUNDER GOD!
BY ASGARD'S GOLDEN GATES!
NONE BUT A GOD CAN UNLEASH SUCH POWER!
I FEEL AS THOUGH--ANOTHER HAND, NOT MINE--NOW GUIDES MY BLOWS!
AS THOUGH ANOTHER WILL, NOT MINE--IS FORCING ME TO FIGHT--TO HATE!
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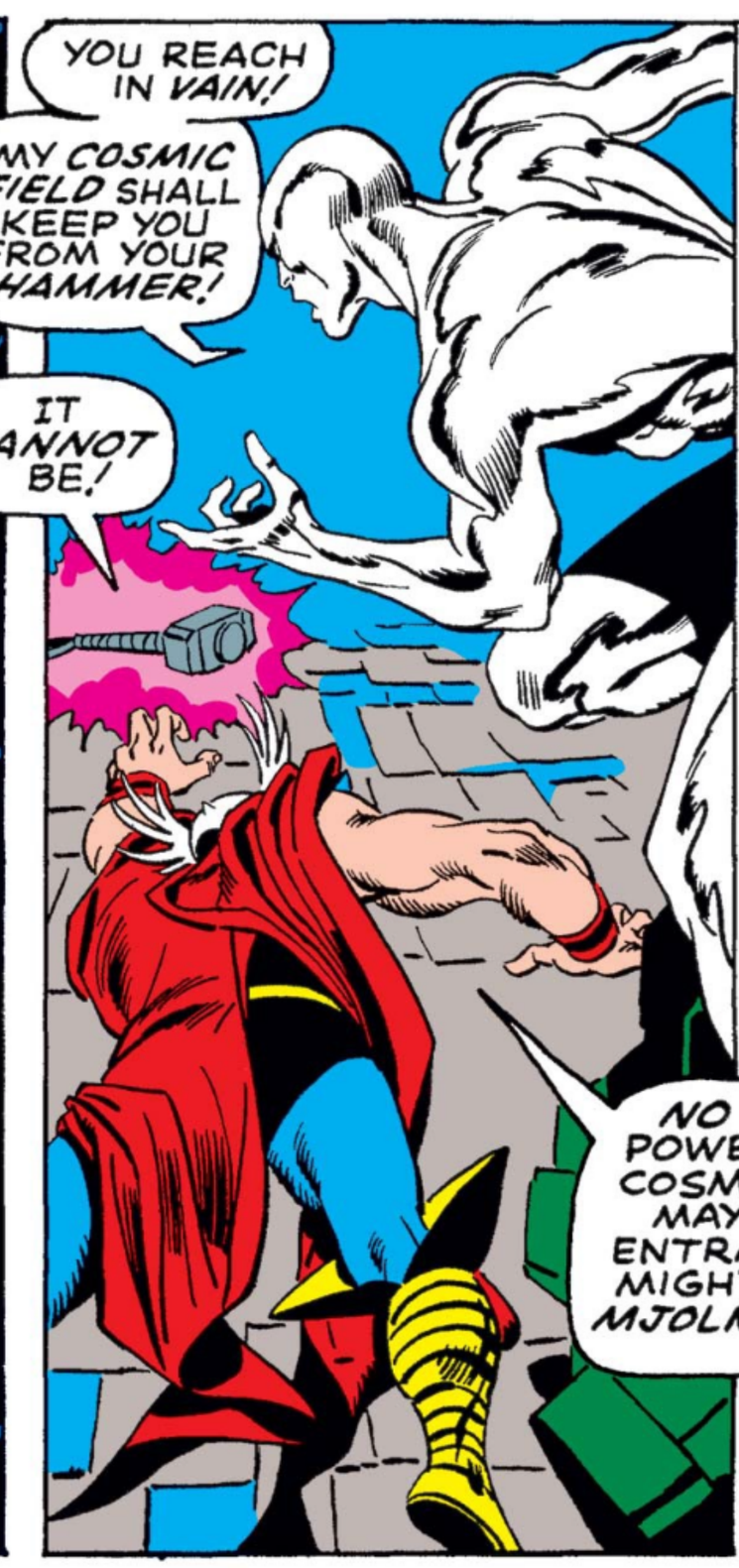
HE ATTACKS WITHOUT LET!
WITH FURY UNMATCHED!

EACH TIME I RAISE ENCHANTED MJOLNIR--

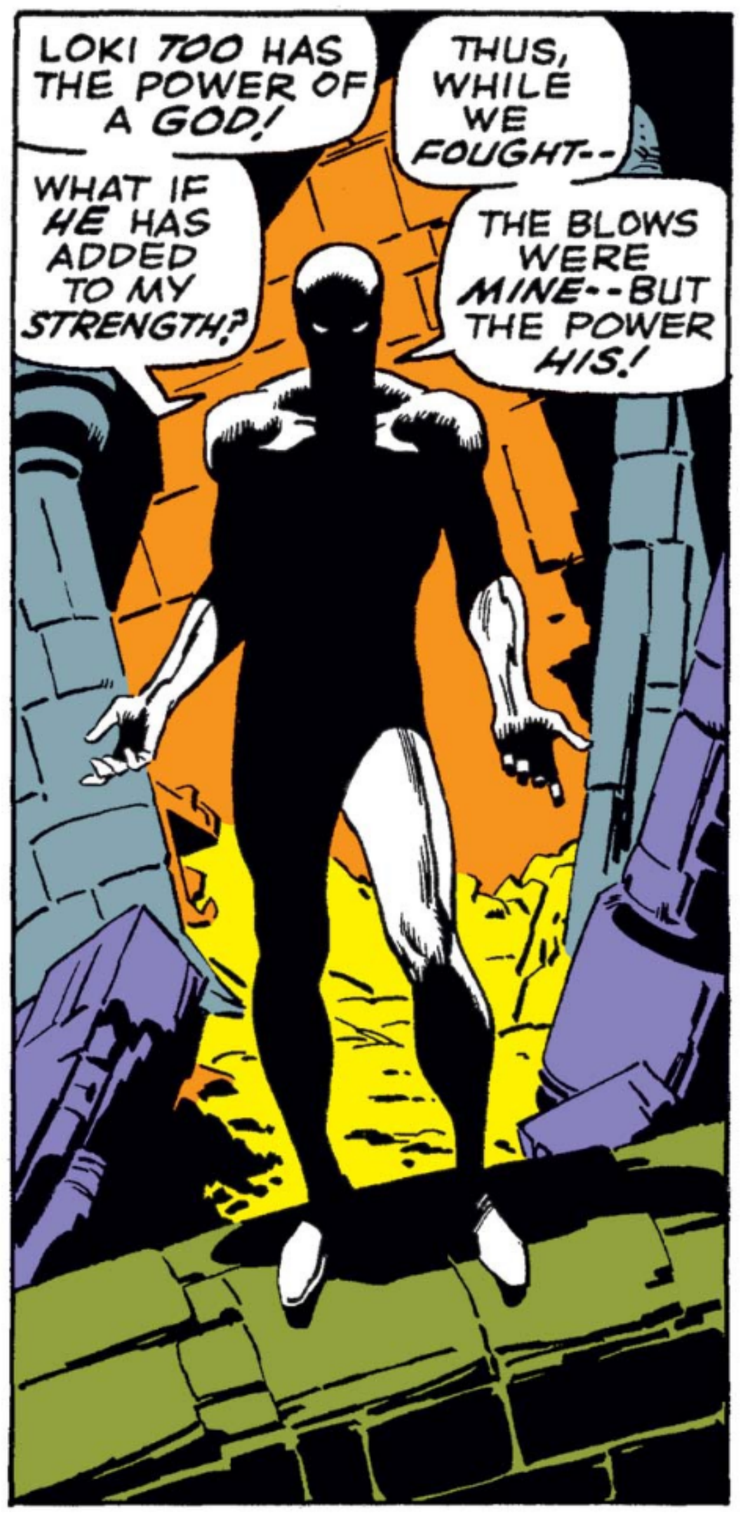
HE DOTH STRIKE--
--AND HURL IT FROM MINE ANGUISHED HAND!

AT LAST! THE THUNDER GOD IS DOWN!

NOW, NO NEED HAVE I FOR ASTRAL FORM!
SINCE TRIUMPH IS NIGH-- I WOULD SAVOR IT IN FLESH AND BLOOD!

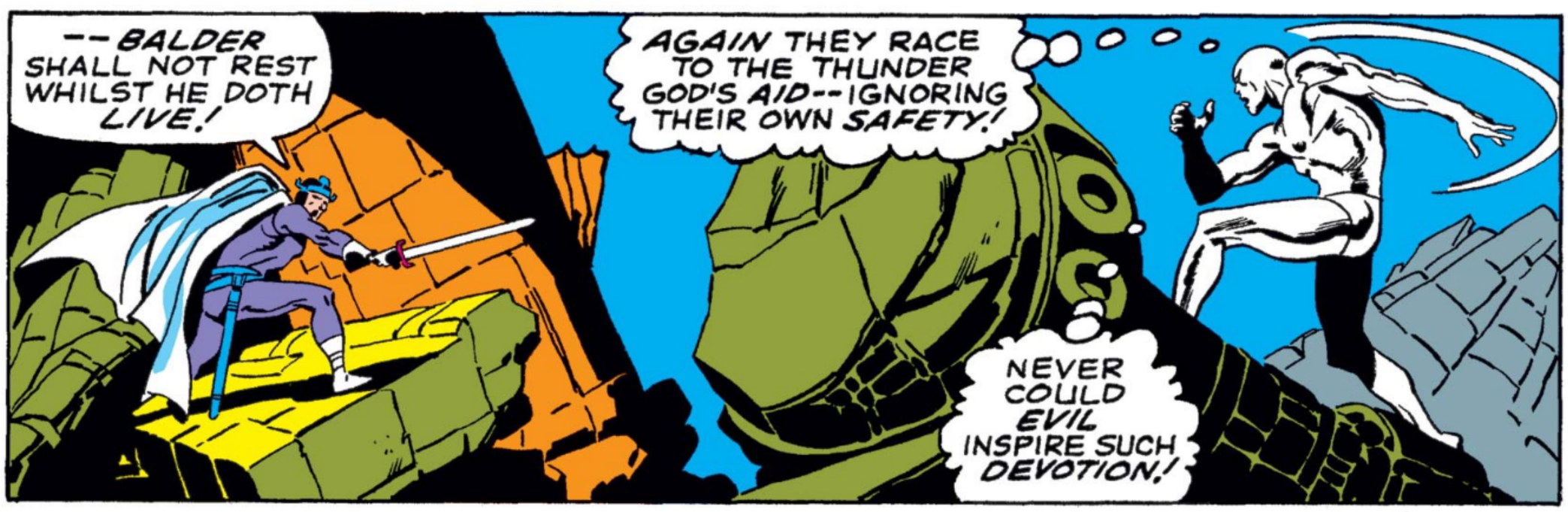

YOU REACH IN VAIN!
MY COSMIC FIELD SHALL KEEP YOU FROM YOUR HAMMER!
IT CANNOT BE!
NO POWER COSMIC MAY ENTRAP MIGHTY MJOLNIR!

I HAVE SEEN HIS MALLET'S MAGIC!
IT IS TRULY MIGHTIER THAN MY COSMIC FORCE!
THEN, WHY SHOULD IT STAY OUT OF REACH--? UNLESS--

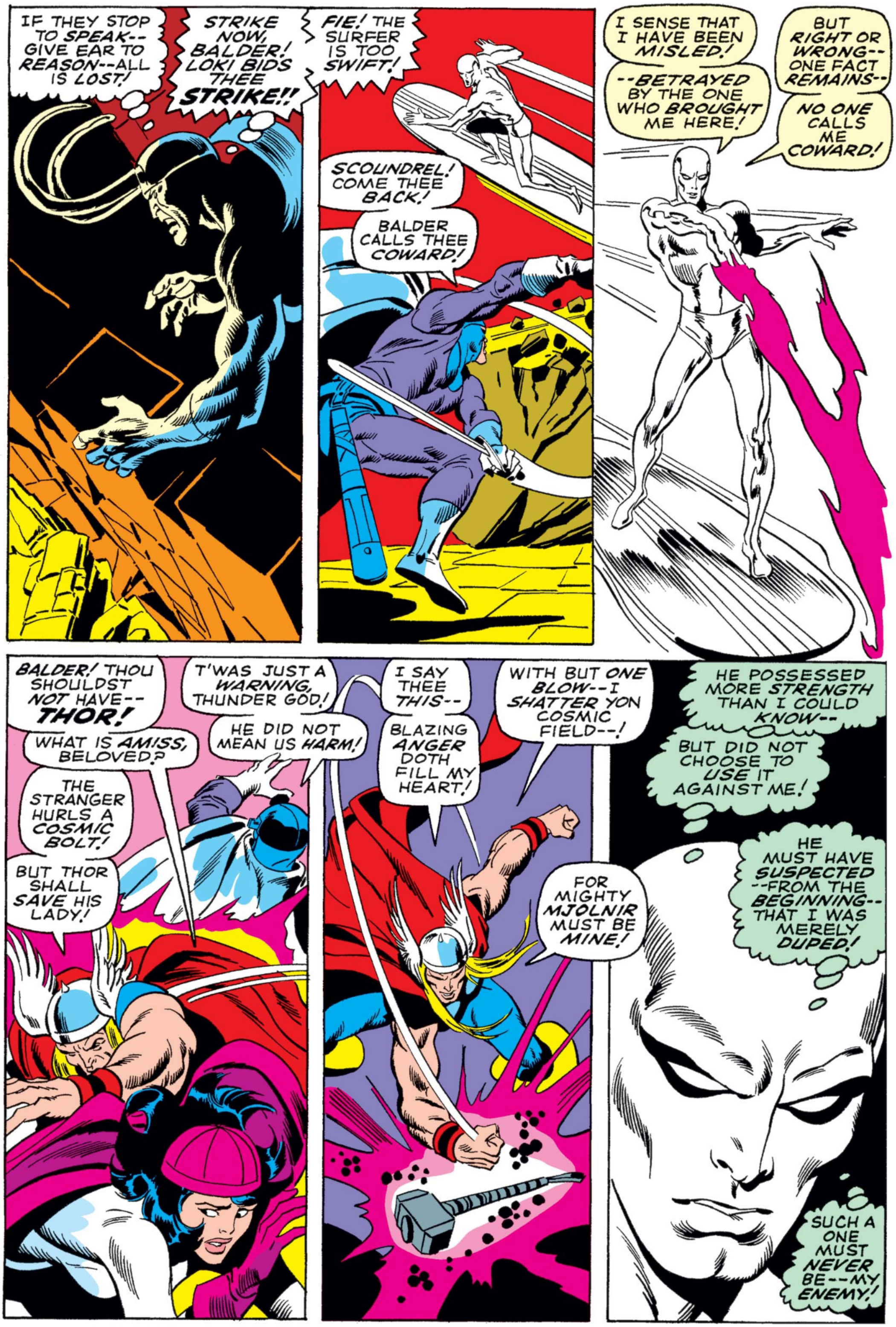

LOKI TOO HAS THE POWER OF A GOD!
THUS, WHILE WE FOUGHT--
WHAT IF HE HAS ADDED TO MY STRENGTH?
THE BLOWS WERE MINE--BUT THE POWER HIS!

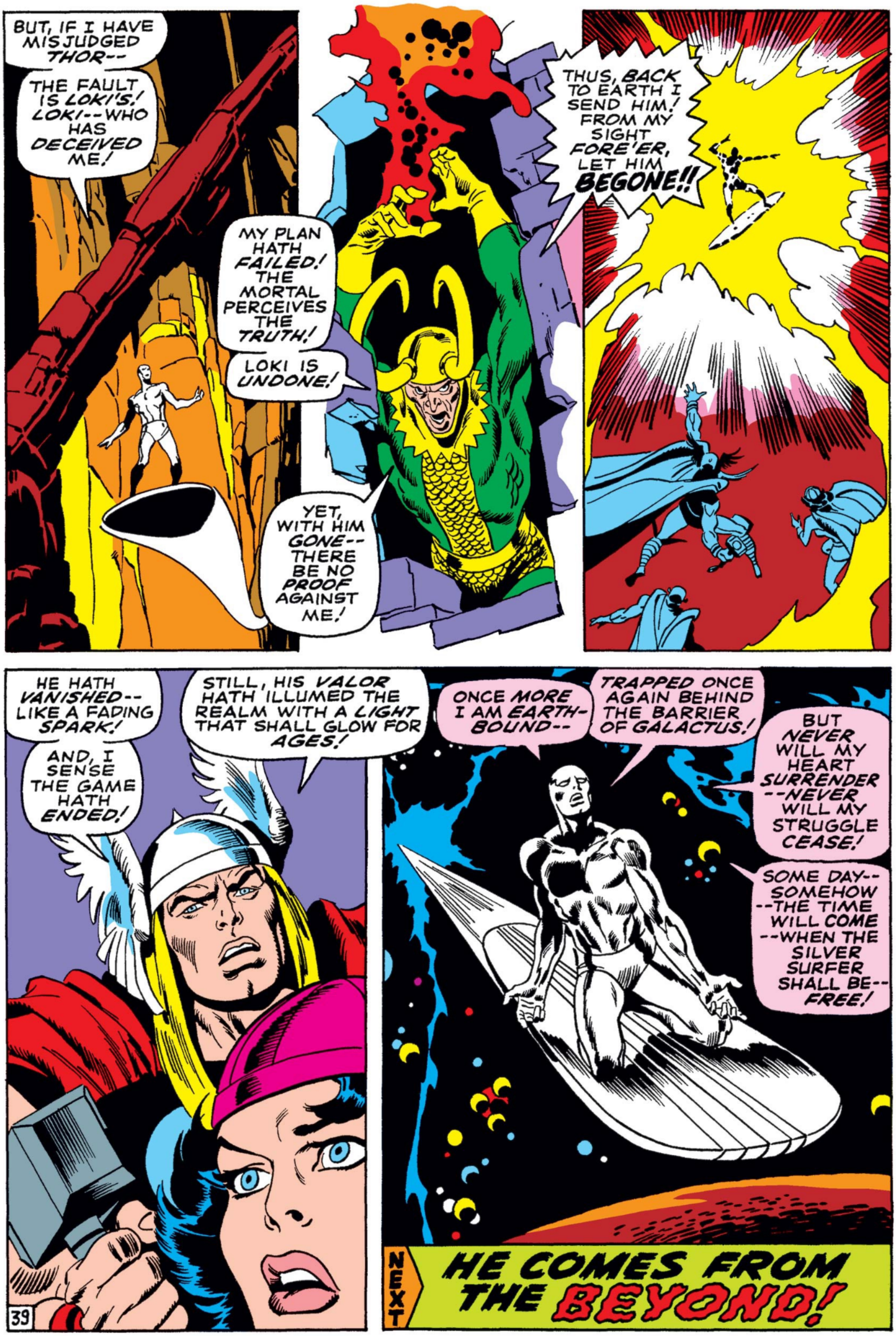
LOKI?!! WHAT KNOWEST THOU OF LOKI??
'TWAS HE WHO BROUGHT ME HERE--TO SAVE THE REALM!
THEN, 'TIS THE MASTER OF EVIL THOU DOST SERVE!

I SERVE NONE BUT THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE!
IF THOR HATH COME TO HARM--LET THE PERPETRATOR BEWARE--!

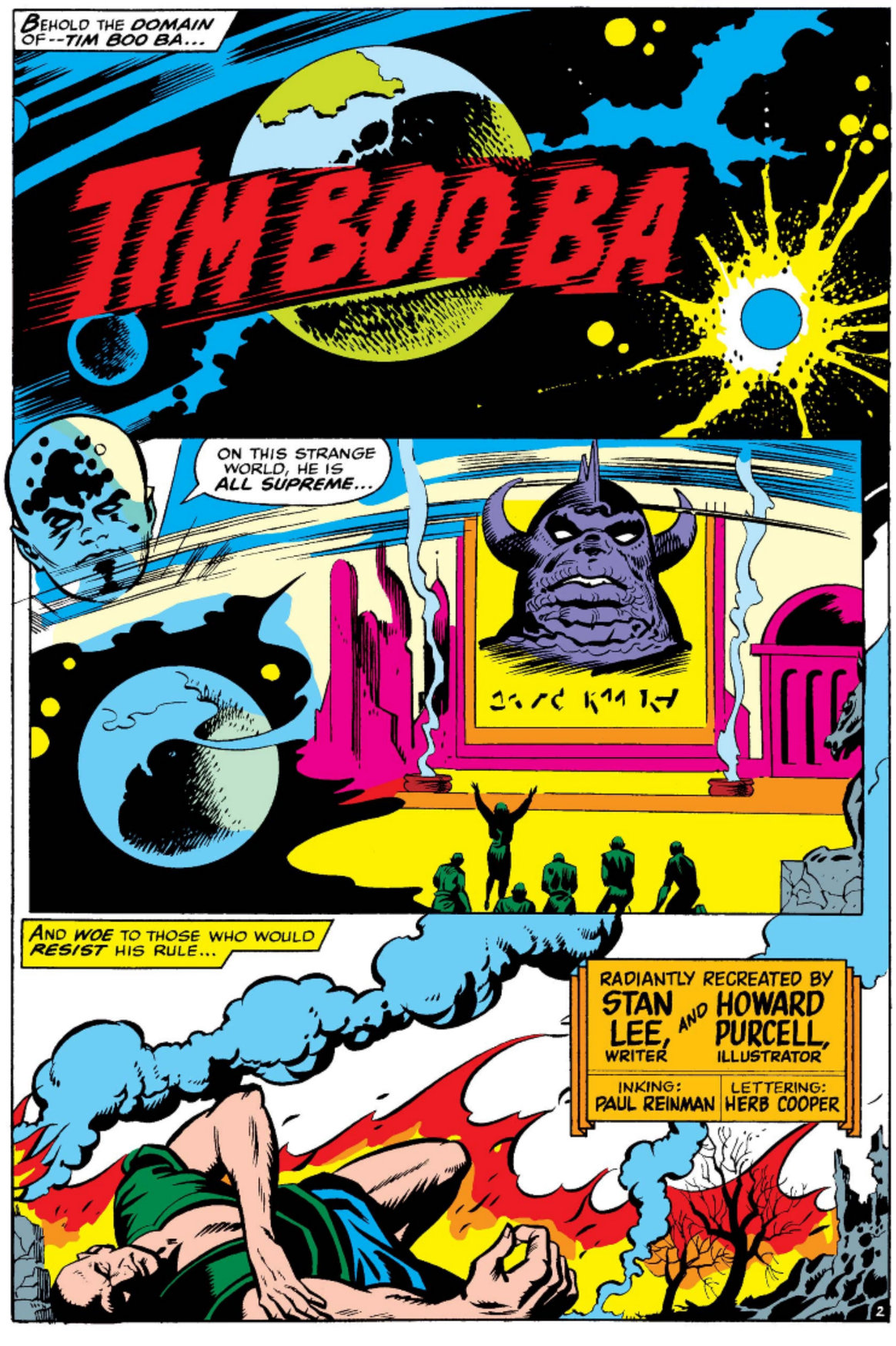

--BALDER SHALL NOT REST WHILST HE DOTH LIVE!
AGAIN THEY RACE TO THE THUNDER GOD'S AID--IGNORING THEIR OWN SAFETY!
NEVER COULD EVIL INSPIRE SUCH DEVOTION!

WARRIOR, COME NO FURTHER!
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR US TO BATTLE!
BUT WE HAVE MUCH TO SPEAK OF!
MY BLADE ALONE SHALL SERVE AS LIPS--!
BALDER--NO! LET HIM BE HEARD!


IF THEY STOP TO SPEAK--GIVE EAR TO REASON--ALL IS LOST!
STRIKE NOW, BALDER! LOKI BIDS THEE STRIKE!!
FIE! THE SURFER IS TOO SWIFT!
SCOUNDREL! COME THEE BACK!
BALDER CALLS THEE COWARD!
I SENSE THAT I HAVE BEEN MISLED!
--BETRAYED BY THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME HERE!
BUT RIGHT OR WRONG--ONE FACT REMAINS--
NO ONE CALLS ME COWARD!
BALDER! THOU SHOULDST NOT HAVE--THOR!
T'WAS JUST A WARNING, THUNDER GOD!
WHAT IS AMISS, BELOVED?
HE DID NOT MEAN US HARM!
THE STRANGER HURLS A COSMIC BOLT!
BUT THOR SHALL SAVE HIS LADY!
I SAY THEE THIS--
BLAZING ANGER DOTH FILL MY HEART!
WITH BUT ONE BLOW--I SHATTER YON COSMIC FIELD--!
FOR MIGHTY MJOLNIR MUST BE MINE!
HE POSSESSED MORE STRENGTH THAN I COULD KNOW--
BUT DID NOT CHOOSE TO USE IT AGAINST ME!
HE MUST HAVE SUSPECTED --FROM THE BEGINNING--THAT I WAS MERELY DUPED!
SUCH A ONE MUST NEVER BE--MY ENEMY!

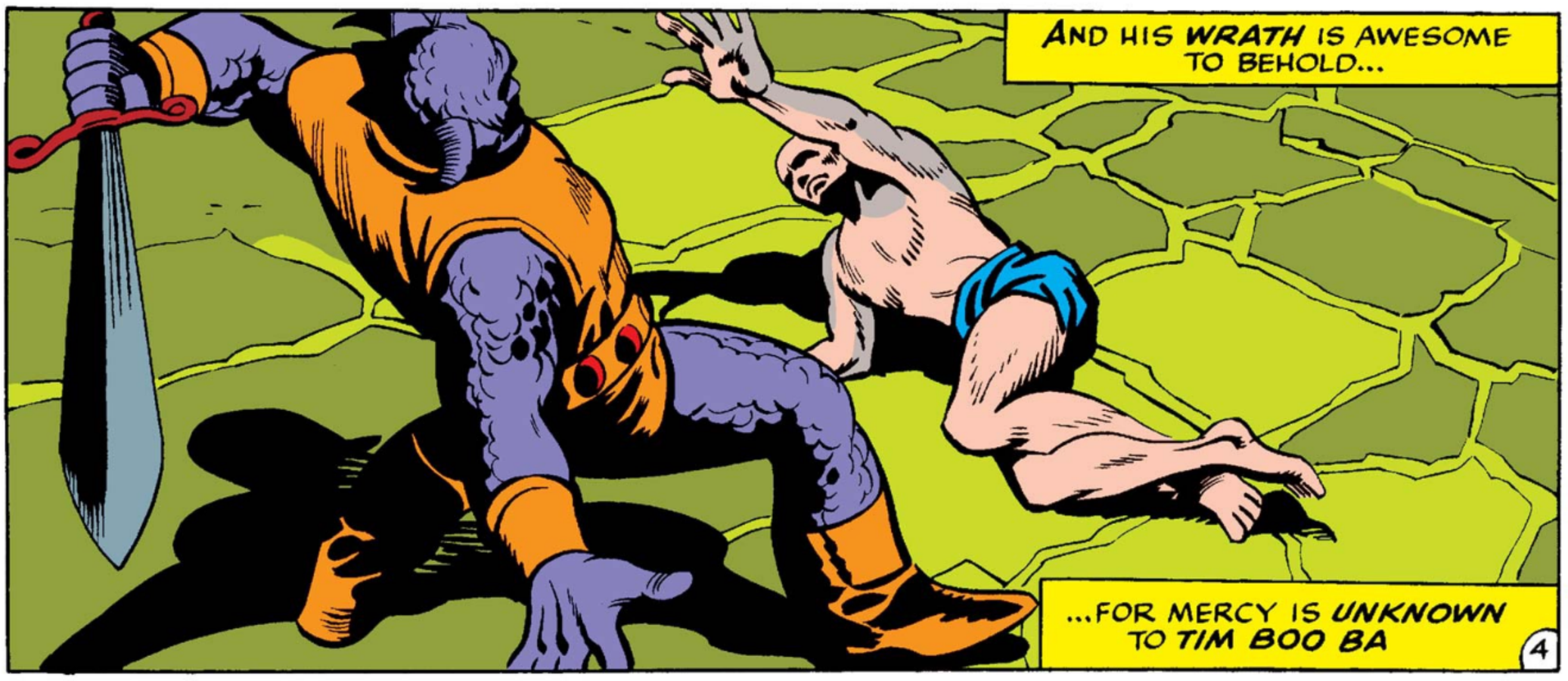

BUT, IF I HAVE MISJUDGED THOR--
THE FAULT IS LOKI'S! LOKI--WHO HAS DECEIVED ME!
MY PLAN HATH FAILED! THE MORTAL PERCEIVES THE TRUTH!
LOKI IS UNDONE!
YET, WITH HIM GONE--THERE BE NO PROOF AGAINST ME!
THUS, BACK TO EARTH I SEND HIM! FROM MY SIGHT FORE'ER, LET HIM BEGONE!!
HE HATH VANISHED--LIKE A FADING SPARK!
AND, I SENSE THE GAME HATH ENDED!
STILL, HIS VALOR HATH ILLUMED THE REALM WITH A LIGHT THAT SHALL GLOW FOR AGES!
ONCE MORE I AM EARTH-BOUND--
TRAPPED ONCE AGAIN BEHIND THE BARRIER OF GALACTUS!
BUT NEVER WILL MY HEART SURRENDER --NEVER WILL MY STRUGGLE CEASE!
SOME DAY--SOMEHOW --THE TIME WILL COME --WHEN THE SILVER SURFER SHALL BE--FREE!
39
NEXT
HE COMES FROM THE BEYOND!

Tales of THE WATCHER!
THE TERROR OF
MANY ARE THE WONDERS OF THE VAST UNIVERSE, BUT NONE SO FANTASTIC AS... TIM BOO BA!


BEHOLD THE DOMAIN OF--TIM BOO BA...
TIM BOO BA
ON THIS STRANGE WORLD, HE IS ALL SUPREME...
AND WOE TO THOSE WHO WOULD RESIST HIS RULE...
RADIANTLY RECREATED BY
STAN LEE, WRITER
AND
HOWARD PURCELL, ILLUSTRATOR
INKING: PAUL REINMAN
LETTERING: HERB COOPER

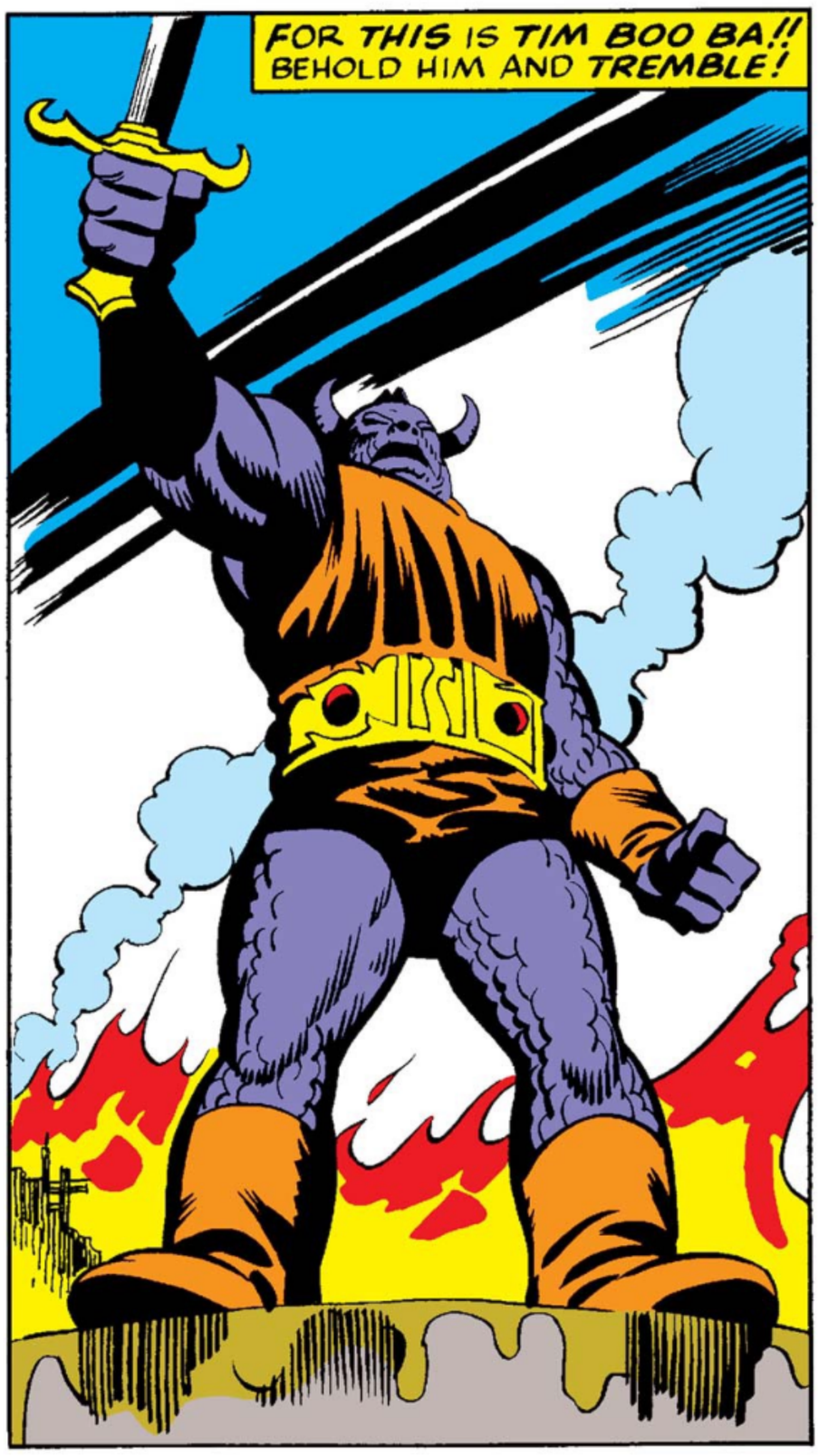
FOR HIS HORDES STRIKE WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND THUNDERS!
NONE IS SO POWERFUL AS TIM BOO BA!

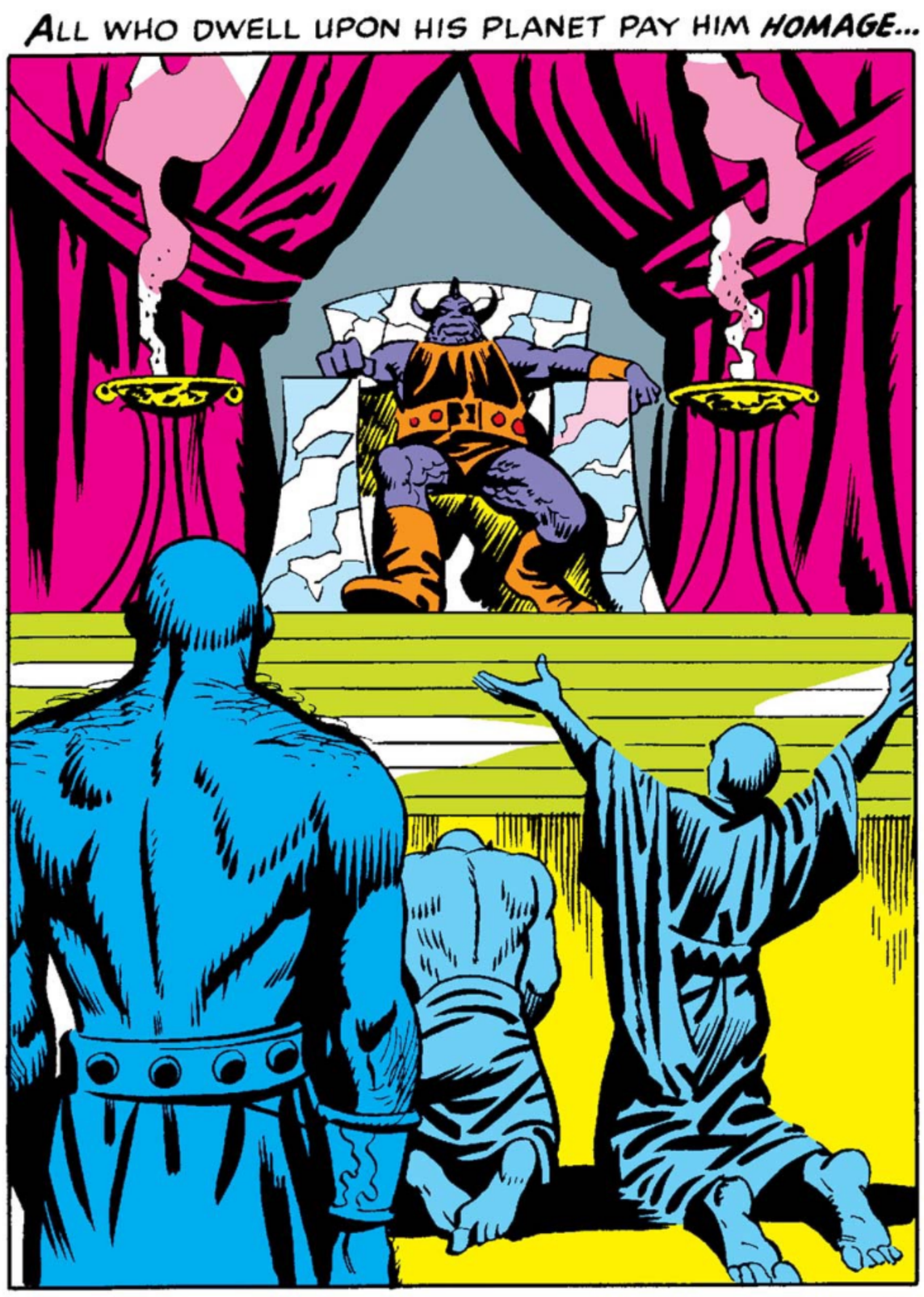
NONE IS AS FEARED AS TIM BOO BA!
AND NONE IS AS TRIUMPHANT AS TIM BOO BA! HIS ENEMIES FALL BEFORE HIM LIKE THE WIND!


AND HIS WRATH IS AWESOME TO BEHOLD...
...FOR MERCY IS UNKNOWN TO TIM BOO BA

FOR AGES I HAVE STUDIED THIS SAVAGE BEING, WHOSE APPETITE FOR CONQUEST CAN NEVER BE APPEASED!
THRUOUT THE DISTANT GALAXIES HIS CONQUERING HORDES ARE EVER ON THE MARCH!
ALWAYS HE SEEKS NEW LANDS TO PLUNDER...
NEW CITIES TO PILLAGE!
5

GAZE THEN UPON THE FACE OF TIM BOO BA...
--MIGHTIEST WARLORD OF THEM ALL!!
GAZE UPON THE MOUTH OF TIM BOO BA...
THE MOUTH WHICH CRIES "ATTACK! ATTACK!"
6


FOR THIS IS TIM BOO BA!! BEHOLD HIM AND TREMBLE!

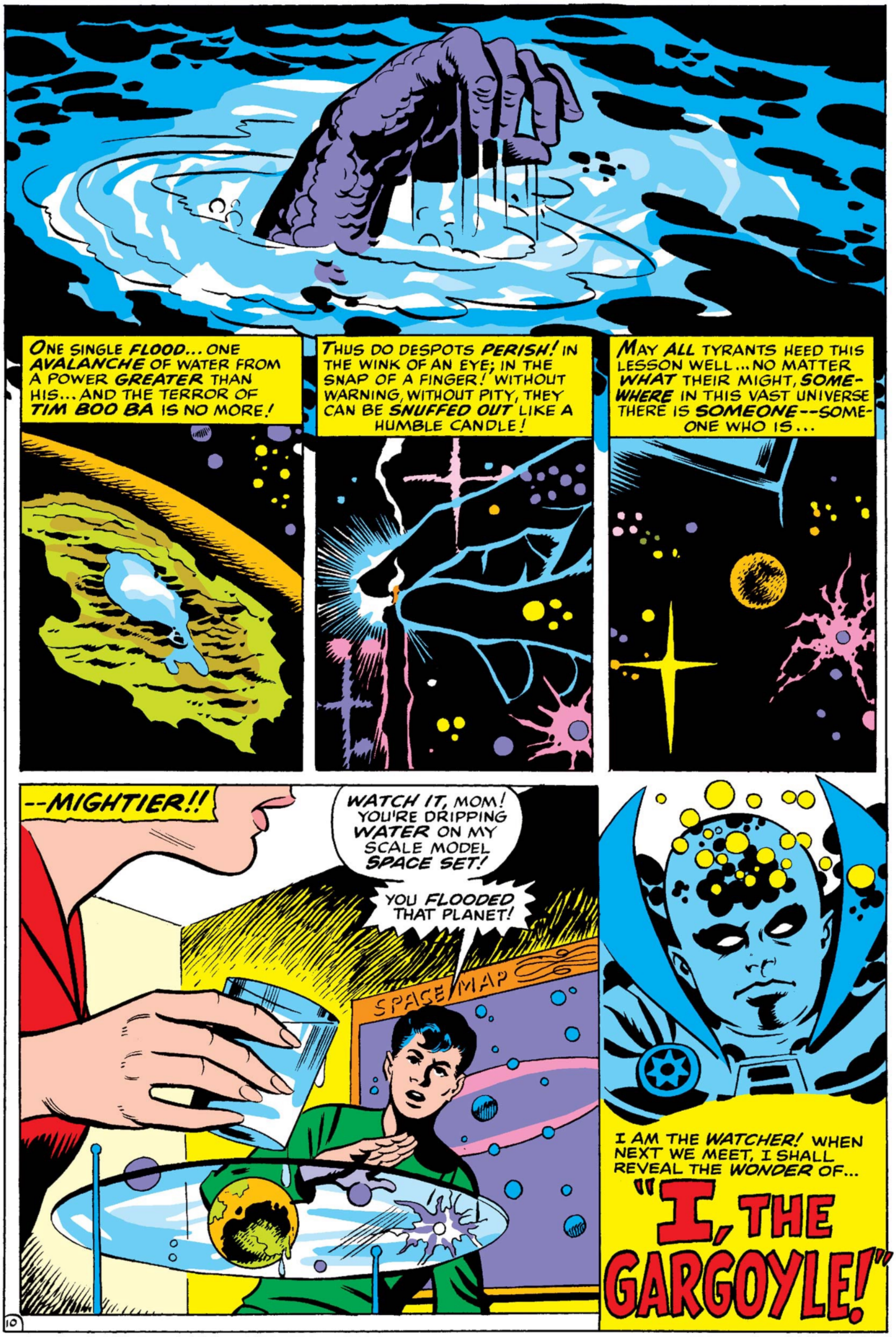

ALL WHO DWELL UPON HIS PLANET PAY HIM HOMAGE...

THE SHADOW OF HIS TYRANNY REACHES EVERYWHERE...

...AND HIS VICTIMS ARE HEARD FROM--NEVER AGAIN!!

HIS EVERY WORD IS ABSOLUTE LAW... AND NO OTHER DARES SPEAK IN THE PRESENCE OF TIM BOO BA!
MONSTROUS, COLOSSAL STATUES TO HIS GLORY COVER THE LAND-- AND THE SEAS!
...WHILE HIS SUBJECTS EXIST IN ABJECT BONDAGE, LIVING ONLY TO SERVE HIM...
...FOR HIS POWER IS BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION...
THIS IS INDEED - THE MASTER OF HIS WORLD!

YES, THIS IS TIM BOO BA...
AS WE WITNESS--HIS FINAL HOUR!
FOR THIS IS THE END OF TIM BOO BA... AND OF HIS TYRANNY! ALL WASHED AWAY IN A FEW FLEETING SECONDS--!


ONE SINGLE FLOOD... ONE AVALANCHE OF WATER FROM A POWER GREATER THAN HIS... AND THE TERROR OF TIM BOO BA IS NO MORE!
THUS DO DESPOTS PERISH! IN THE WINK OF AN EYE; IN THE SNAP OF A FINGER! WITHOUT WARNING, WITHOUT PITY, THEY CAN BE SNUFFED OUT LIKE A HUMBLE CANDLE!
MAY ALL TYRANTS HEED THIS LESSON WELL... NO MATTER WHAT THEIR MIGHT, SOMEWHERE IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE THERE IS SOMEONE--SOMEONE WHO IS...
--MIGHTIER!!
WATCH IT, MOM! YOU'RE DRIPPING WATER ON MY SCALE MODEL SPACE SET!
YOU FLOODED THAT PLANET!
SPACE MAP
I AM THE WATCHER! WHEN NEXT WE MEET, I SHALL REVEAL THE WONDER OF...
"I, THE GARGOYLE!"
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